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Courage and Benevolence :

Sir Kameshwar Singh

(1907 - 1962)

Editor
Hetukar Jha

Kameshwar Singh Bihar Heritage Series - 10

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Courage and Benevolence :

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh

Jha

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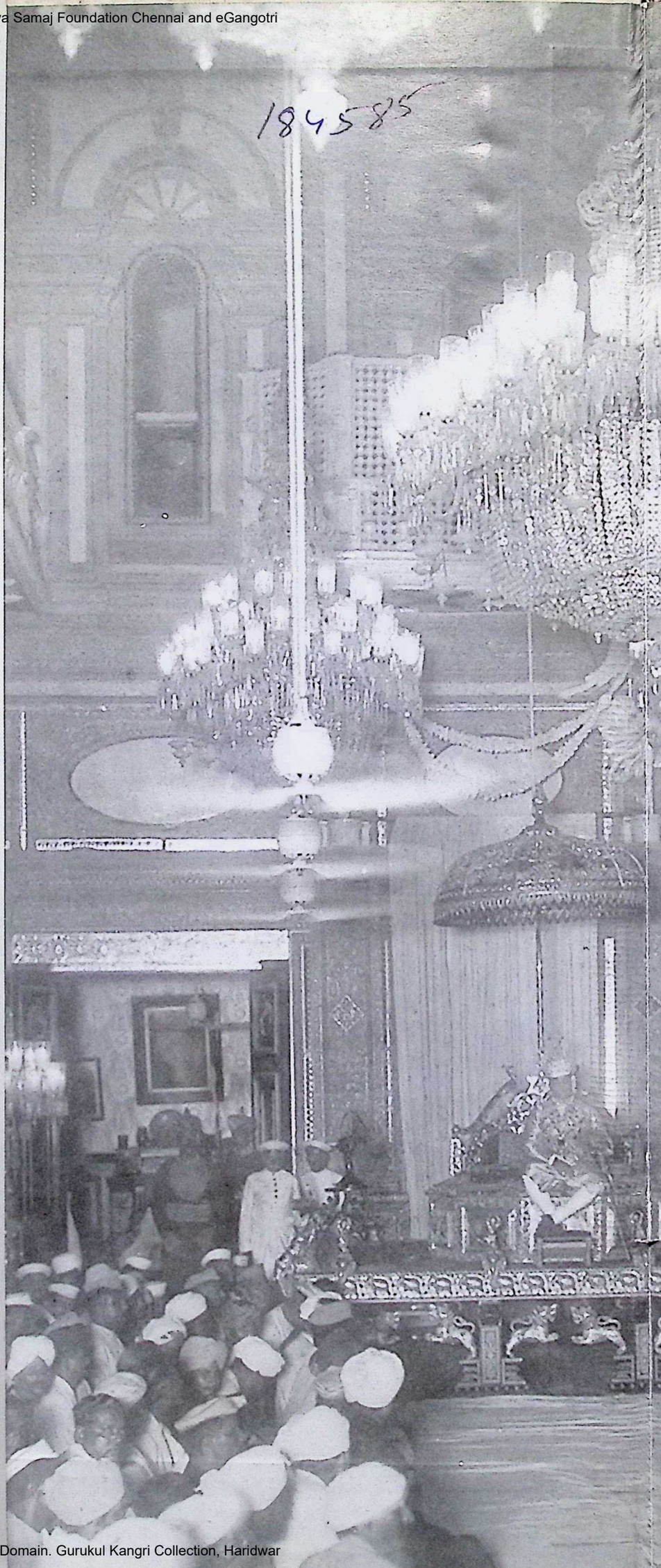
"...Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh gracefully accepted all the social obligations of the Darbhanga raj. It was the cardinal principle in his life that Raj Darbhanga existed for the welfare of people. In Ramgarh session of the Congress, the Reception Committee needed financial assistance. Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh sent his generous donations to Dr. Rajendra Prasad for the Purpose... During the Civil Disobedience Movement of 1930 and 1932, Dr. Kameshwar Singh gave handsome financial assistance to the Congress leaders of Bihar.

In 1942, the District Magistrate of Darbhanga wanted the use of horsemen ...in the service of Raj Darbhanga. Kameshwar Singh refused to co-operate with the authorities in the Division for this purpose.

Mr. Subhash Chandra Bose received generous financial assistance from Dr. Kameshwar Singh in 1937.

In fact, Dr. Kameshwar Singh led the Darbhanga House as a great servant of free and renascent India."

...Report filed by PTI (1962)



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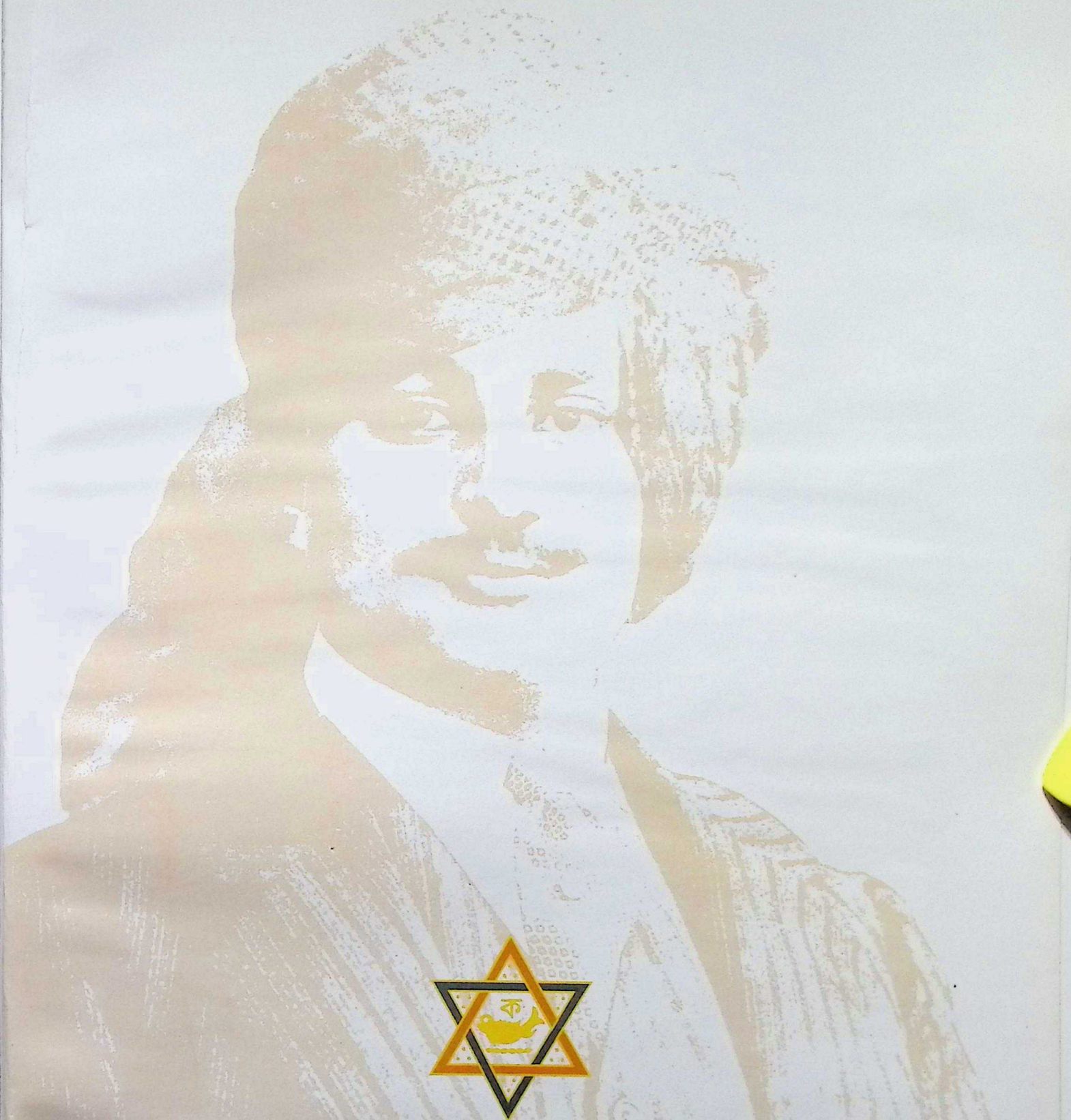

COURAGE AND BENEVOLENCE

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh

(1907-1962)

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Editor
HETUKAR JHA

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Kameshwar Singh Bihar Heritage Series - 10

COURAGE AND BENEVOLENCE :

CORRESPONDENCE AND SPEECHES OF INDIA'S PRIME-ESTATE HOLDER

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh

OF DARBHANGA

(1 9 0 7 - 1 9 6 2)

Editor
HETUKAR JHA

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Maharajadhiraj Kameshwar Singh Kalyani Foundation
Kalyani Niwas, Darbhanga (Bihar)
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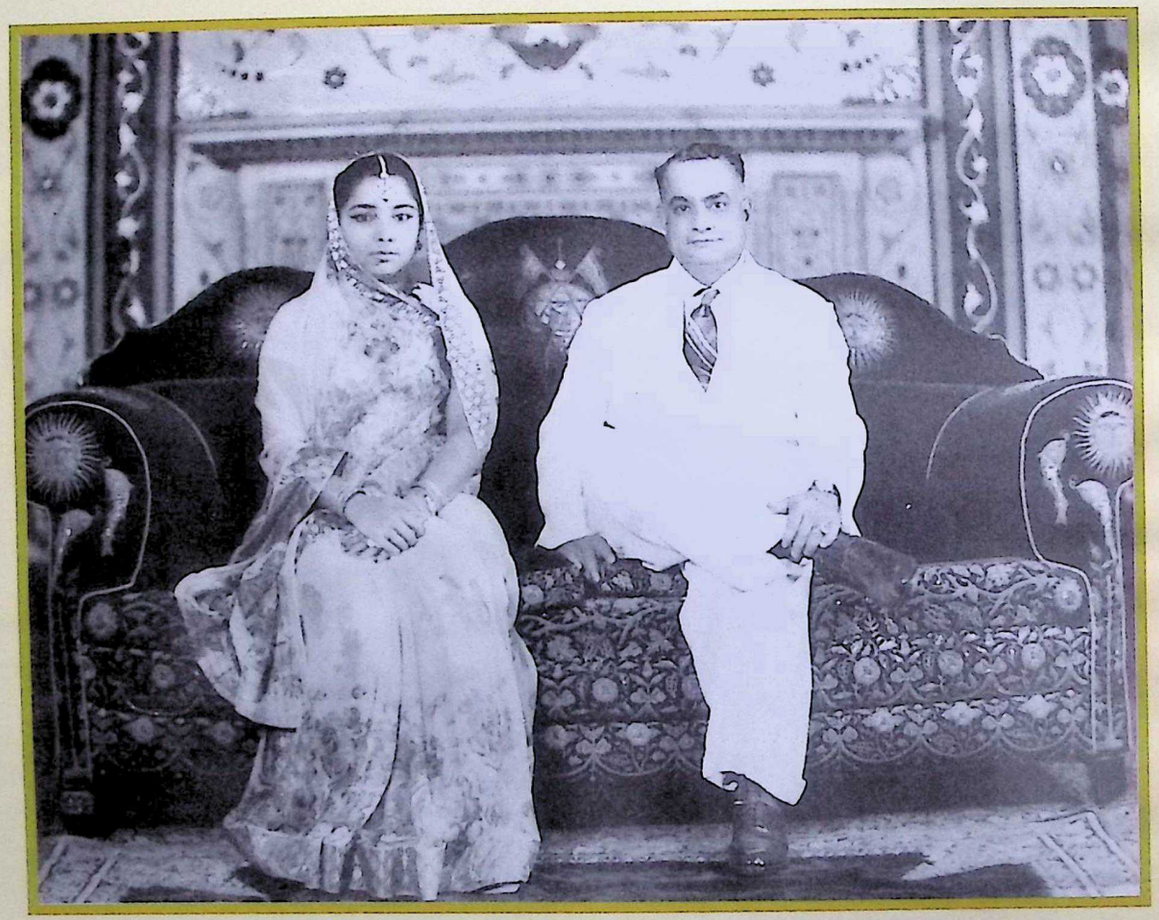

Maharani Adhirani Kamsundari with Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh

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Office of H.H. Maharani Adhirani
Kamsundari Saheba of Darbhanga

समर्पण

खण्डवला कुलदीपक.
स्वीकार करु.
हमरो मौखिक नोर !!
कामसुन्दरी

Kalyani House, Behind 7 Man Singh Road, New Delhi - 110 011 ● Phone : 3018472
Kalyani Niwas, Kameshwar Nagar, Darbhanga (Bihar) ● Phone : 22045

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INTRODUCTION

Darbhanga raj was more a centre of promoting and patronising the socio-cultural creations and traditions than a dynasty of warring rajas. From about AD 1557, when Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Thakur was granted substantial authority by the Mughal emperor Akbar in the affairs of revenue administration of Sarkar Tirhut, to 1962, when Kameshwar Singh, the last Maharajadhiraja died, the Khandavala dynasty survived various trials and tribulations in the course of its existence for about 400 years. During this long period, after Mahesh Thakur 18 persons occupied the gaddi of the raj one after another in line of succession. Besides some hagiographies, the books and articles containing the historical accounts of the circumstances and activities of different rajas of this dynasty were also prepared in the last two centuries. The following are some of the important works in this context :

1. Riaz-i-Tirhut (In Urdu) by Ayodhya Prasad 'Bahar', published in 1868 (see Jha, Hetukar ed. A Glimpse of Tirhut in the second Half of the Nineteenth Century :Riaz-I-Tirhut of Ayhodhya Prasad 'Bahar', Kameshwar Singh Bihar Heritage Series - 3, Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh Kalyani Foundation, Darbhanga,1997);

2. Aina-i-Tirhut (In Urdu) by Bihari Lal 'Fitrat' , published in 1883 (see Jha, Hetukar ed. Mithila in the Nineteenth Century : Aina-i-Tirhut of Biharilal 'Fitrat', Kameshwar Singh Bihar Heritage Series-5, Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh Kalyani Foundation, Darbhanga,2001);

3. Mithila Darpan by Ras Bihari Lal Das, published in 1915 (see Jha, Hetukar ed. Tirhut in Early Twentieth Century : Mithila Darpan of Ras Bihari Lal Das, Kameshwar Singh Bihar Heritage Series-8, Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh Kalyani Foundation, Darbhanga, 2005.

4. Mithila Tattva Vimarsha (In Maithili) by Mahamahopadhyaya Parameshwara Jha, Maithili Academy, Patna, 1977;

5. Mithila Bhashamay Itihas (In Maithili) by Mahamahopadhyaya Mukund Jha Bakhshi, Vidya Vilas Press, Banaras;

6. History of Tirhut (In English) by Shyam Narain Singh, The Baptist Mission Press, Calcutta, 1922;

7. History of Muslim Rule in Tirhut (In English) by Radhakrishna Choudhary, The Chowkhamba Sanskrit Series, Vol. LXXII, Varanasi, 1970;

8. Khandavala Raj Darpan (in Hindi) by Chetanath Jha, Kanhaiya Lal Krishna Das, Darbhanga, 1920;

9. "History of Darbhanga Raj" by Jata Shankar Jha, The Journal of the Bihar Research Society, Vol. XLVIII, Jan-Dec., Parts I-IV, 1962, pp. 14-104;

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10. "Introduction", Sarvadeshavrittanta Sangrahah by Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Thakur, ed. Subhadra Jha, Patna University Publications (Darbhanga Series 2), 1962;

11. Biography of An Indian Patriot : Maharaja Lakshmishwar Singh of Darbhanga by Jata Shankar Jha, Maharaja Lakshmishwar Singh Smarak Samiti, Patna, 1972;

12. A Great Estate and Its Landlords in Colonial India, Darbhanga 1860-1942, by Stephen Hennigham, Oxford University Press, Delhi, 1990; and

13. Pandit Mahesh Thakur : Maharaja Darbhanga (in Hindi) by Kirti Nath Thakur, Sahitya Lok, Bokaro Steel City, 1995.

These (above mentioned) works contain historically significant material regarding both the family and the region (Mithila). Mahesh Thakur was a Maithil brahman whose earliest known ancestor was one Mahamahopadhyaya Gangadhara. Gangadhara's great grandson, Shankarshan, was a great scholar and was also known as a master of spiritual power. He was granted the village of Khandawa by the then chief of Bastar (in Madhya Pradesh) most probably in early 13th century. Since then, his descendents adopted Thakur as surname and came to be known as Khandavala. Sripati Thakur, ninth in line of descent from Shankarshan, settled in the village of Bhour in the present district of Madhubani by mid fifteenth century. Bhour was added to the family identity of Sripati whose descendents are known as Khandavale-Bhour. Mahesh Thakur was one of the grandsons of Sripati. He was a great scholar of Navya-nyaya, Dharmashashtra, etc,. His works are still reckoned to be landmarks in the fields of Sanskrit learning. Besides, the family had continued to remain in close touch with Bastar Rajas since the time of Shankarshan. Mahesh Thakur and his brothers were in close contact with them. They were, thus, exposed to the different social and political forces emerging in different parts of the country at that time. Mahesh Thakur also visited Mughal court and established good relationship with important authorities. His outlook must have been quite liberal and broad. It seems that he had also acquired the knowledge of Persian. According to Subhandra Jha, his work, Sarvadeshvrittanta Sangrahah, "is an abridged rendering in Sanskrit of the famous Persian work bearing the title Akbarnama....." ("Introduction", op. cit, p.XVII). How could one do so without the knowledge of both Sanskrit and Persian?

Mahesh Thakur, it seems, remained in his village Bhour after receiving Choudharai and Kanungoi of Sarkar Tirhut from the emperor Akbar which became the headquarters of his administration and where he also continued to run his Sanskrit pathshala. It is said that he started a system of examination, known as Dhout Pariksha. This system continued to exist until the 20th century. It used to be organised by the raj (Darbhanga) on auspicious occasions. The merit of a pandit was decided on the basis of his performance in disputation and the winner was awarded a pair of dhotis. This examination had a high reputation even in other centres of Sanskrit learning in the country.

Mahesh Thakur was succeeded first by his eldest son, Gopal Thakur and, then, by

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his youngest son, Shubhankar Thakur. Both the brothers were great Sanskrit scholars. The latter also wrote some books which are still used by scholars. He shifted the headquarters of the raj from his village Bhour to Bhoura (situated on the southern side of the present town of Madhubani) towards the close of the sixteenth century. In 1762, Maharaja Pratap Singh brought the heradquarters of the raj from Bhoura to Darbhanga and since then Khandavala raj is also known as Darbhanga raj. At Bhoura (also known as Bhoura garhi), the Khandavala rajas continued to patronise Sanskrit education as well as scholars. The families of great Vaidyas (practitioners of Ayurvedic medicine) were also patronised and settled in the villages of Mithila. In the court of Bhoura, classical as well as folk music received much support. Raag Tirhut, it is said was created here at the time of Raja Mahinath Thakur and his successor Raja Narpati Thakur. Both of them also wrote many devotional songs in Maithili. The families associated with the tradition of Indian classical music were also settled within the territory of Mithila. The Mallik family still known for maintaining Dhrupad tradition in the country always remained associated with Darbhanga raj. Raag Tarangini, a famous work on music was written by Lochana at the request of Narpati Thakur.

It may be mentioned that panji-prabandha (a system of maintaining genealogical records at the collective level) which was organized in early fourteenth century, required support for its continuity that was regularly extended by this raj and, thus, an important institution flourished here until at least mid-twentieth century. The practice of getting large tanks excavated in different villages for the use of people was also an important activity of this raj. Quite a number of Shiva and Shakti temples were also constructed by the rajas of this dynasty. Besides, some of them had to engage in war with neighbouring rajas. For example, Mahinath Thakur fought against Gaja Singh of Champaran, Narpati Thakur fought against Morang Raja. His son, Raghava Singh spent much of his time in war with the rajas of Champaran and Nepal tarai. His son, Raja Narendra Singh fought the famous battle of Kandarpi Ghat against Raja Ram Narain of Patna.

Until the beginning of the rule of East India Company, the dynasty, it seems, remained quite vigorous. However, the inter-regional political/social networking that had been developed by Mahesh Thakur (described before) did not remain so visible in later regimes. After Pratap Singh, his successor, Madhava Singh became the zamindar of Tirhut following the Permanent Settlement of 1793. Madhava Singh, his son (Kshatra Singh), his grandson (Rudra Singh) and his great grandson (Maheshwara Singh), all of them were recognized as Rajas/ Maharajas by the British rule, perhaps, because Darbhanga raj was a very big zamindari. However, their activities remained mostly confined within the boundary of Mithila.

After the death of Maheshwara Singh in 1860, the management of raj was taken over by the Court of Wards. His sons, Lakshmishwar Singh and Rameshwar Singh, were minors at that time. The post-Maheshwar Singh era of the raj was markedly different from the preceding course of Khandavala dynasty. Under the Court of Wards, both the brothers received college level English education, imbibed the skill and competence for

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the efficient management of raj and were exposed to the forces of modernity emerging at that time. The raj administration was organized on bureaucratic principles. By the time Lakshmishwar Singh took charge of his estate (in 1879), Darbhanga raj was the biggest zamindari of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa (see, Henningham, op. cit, p.12). Its functions became visible in many contexts. The raj mobilised all its resources for the relief of people during 1873-74 famine (see, Ain-i-Tirhut, op cit, pp 150-158). Schools of English education were established in different places. Modern allopathic dispensaries began to be set up and maintained. More than twenty schools were also established in the villages. A modern printing press was established. Besides, several roads (total length measuring about 150 miles), bridges, etc., were constructed in different parts of zaminadari (Ibid, pp 44-46). Both the brothers, Lakshmishwar Singh (from 1879 to 1898) and Rameshwar Singh (from 1898 to 1929) brought Darbhanga to a prominent position in the political and socio-cultural map of the entire country. The works mentioned before make it clear that they took leading roles in the landholders' associations at regional and national level; their bold and substantial support to the Indian National Congress was quite visible; their charitable activities were widely appreciated in the country; their contributions to the centres of higher education in the country were quite substantial and their participation in the different political and cultural spheres (such as Indian Association, Governor-General's Legislative Council, Viceregal Legislative Council, Gorakshini Sabha, Bharata Dharma Mahamandal, etc.) at national level were always considered significant both by the Colonial authorities and the native elites. Darbhanga, thus, emerged as a centre that influenced the socio-cultural and political activities of the region as well as the country as a whole a great deal.

Kameshwar Singh, the last Maharajadhiraja, following his accession to the gaddi (in 1929), inherited the mission of exposing Mithila to the values and forces of modernity and nationalism from his uncle, Lakshmishwar Singh, and simultaneously, the obligation of promoting and protecting the identities as well as sanctity of traditional institutions from his father, Rameshwar Singh. He found himself in a position comprising such challenging roles as the role of a great zamindar, the role of a democrat and nationalist, that of a social and cultural leader, etc.

Kameshwar Singh was born on 28 November, 1907, at Darbhanga. He was brought up in the palace under the care of his father who conducted his upnayan sanskar and other rituals according to shastras. He received English education under the guidance and care of Miss Lillian Edgar, who was a Theosophist. He was also educated in Sanskrit. History, particularly political history. however, remained his favourite subject of study throughout his life. He acquired the skill of management from his father and directed his attention and energy with exemplary courage to the issues he considered important from the points of view of his class, community (Mithila), region and nation. From 1929 to 1962 (when he died), each and every day of his life was a day of struggle; struggle for Mithila and Maithili, struggle against religious orthodoxy, struggle for promoting and strengthening symbiotic relationship between zamindars and peasants, struggle for industrial

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development, etc. His life and activities have not been comprehensively studied so far from the point of view of history. Only a few biographical sketches are available (for example, see Henningham, op cit; Ishvari Nandan Prasad published an account of his activities, perhaps, in 1937. His work and the sketches prepared by Professor Aniruddha Jha and Sachin Sen, first published in The Journal of the Bihar Research Society, Vol. XLVIII, January-December, 1962, Parts I-IV, have been given in the appendix of this volume simply because all these three are important and not easily accessible now). An important reason of this neglect is, perhaps, the non-availability of records and documents relating to his regime. It is a matter of great pleasure for us to bring to light some of such records and documents (collected so far) which provide at least a brief glimpse into the life of the last scion of the Khandavala dynasty. All the available documents have been distributed under the following eight sections : 1. Round Table Conference and 'Swadeshi'-'Vilayati' Movement (after Maharajadhiraja came from England, quite a lot of Shrotriya brahmans (sotis) excommunicated him for violating the norms of dharmashastra. Such people called themselves Swadeshis and those who sided with the Maharajadhiraja were called Vilayatis. The Movement of swadeshis was quite vigorous in the beginning); 2. Political Activities; 3. Movement for Mithila State; 4. Estate Management; 5. Commercial and Industrial Ventures; 6. Philanthropy; 7. Tributes and 8. Appendix. Besides, a number of photographs indicating the spheres of his interactions have also been given. Instead of discussing the significance of different records / letters / speeches given under the said sections, it was decided to let the reader decide his / her opinion about their value in the context of Indian history of the modern / contemporary era. It may be said here that search for more records in this context is being carried on by the Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh Kalyani Foundation and, it is hoped, the next volume will also be brought out soon.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the authorities of Sinha Library (Patna) and to those of Rajya Sabha Library (New Delhi) who were kind enough to grant access to the collection of records and books preserved and maintained by them. Tejakar Jha of Vigyapan helped us continuously in the course of searching the materials. Ms. Shweta Sinha (of Vigyapan) and Tejakar Jha undertook the responsibility of designing and printing this volume. We express our gratitude to them quite sincerely. Dr. Surendra Gopal, who is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation, gave quite valuable suggestions for organising the entire material in a systematic manner. Paras Nath Singh Thakur worked tirelessly for collecting photographs and letters from the files preserved in the library of the Foundation. Besides, a large number of friends extended their co-operation as and when required. We are thankful to all of them.

Hetukar Jha
Former Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology
Patna University

Honorary Managing Trustee
Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh Kalyani Foundation
Kalyani Niwas, Darbhanga

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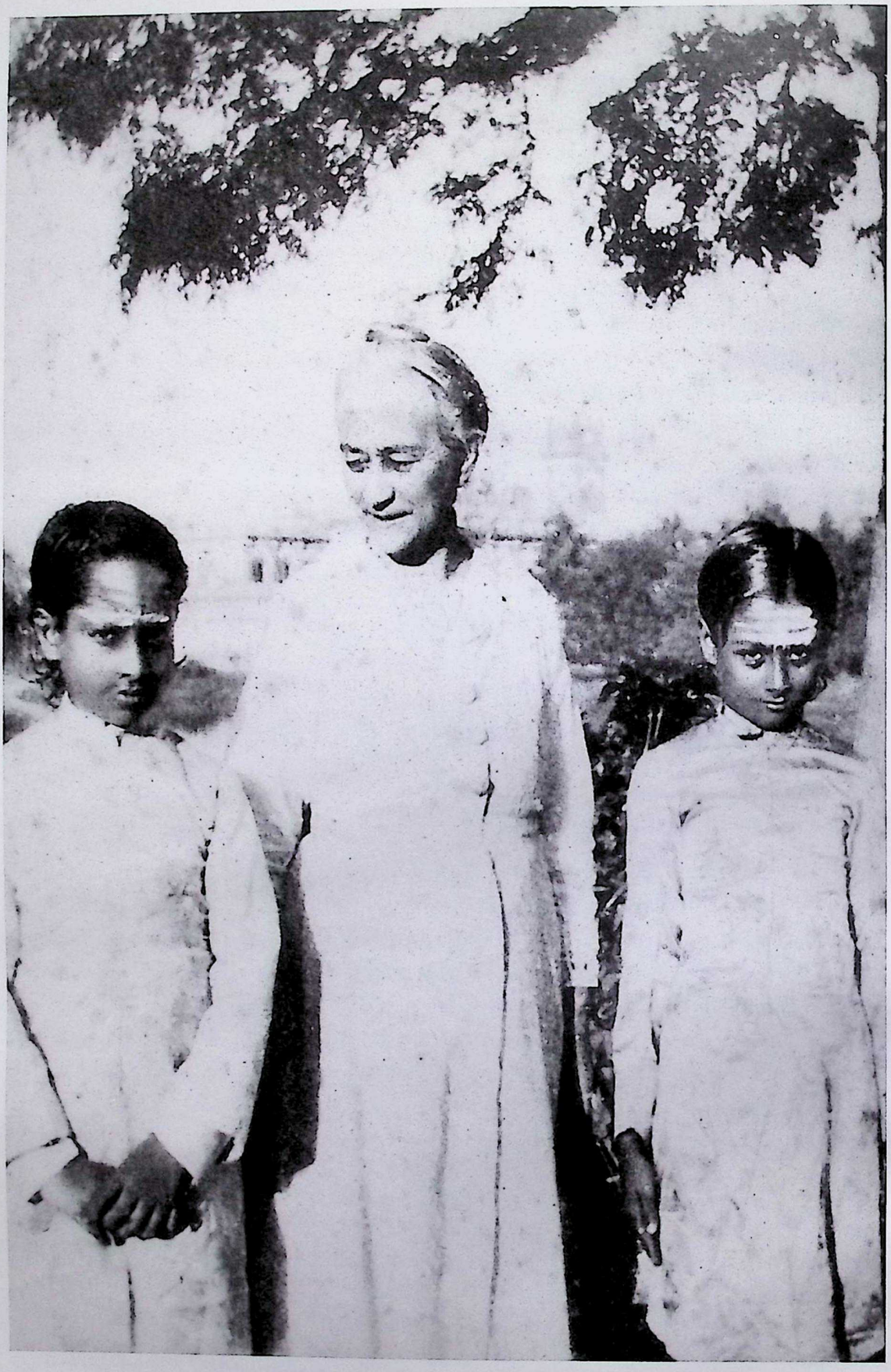

(L to R) Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
Ms. Edgar Lillian and Raja Bahadur Visheshwar Singh

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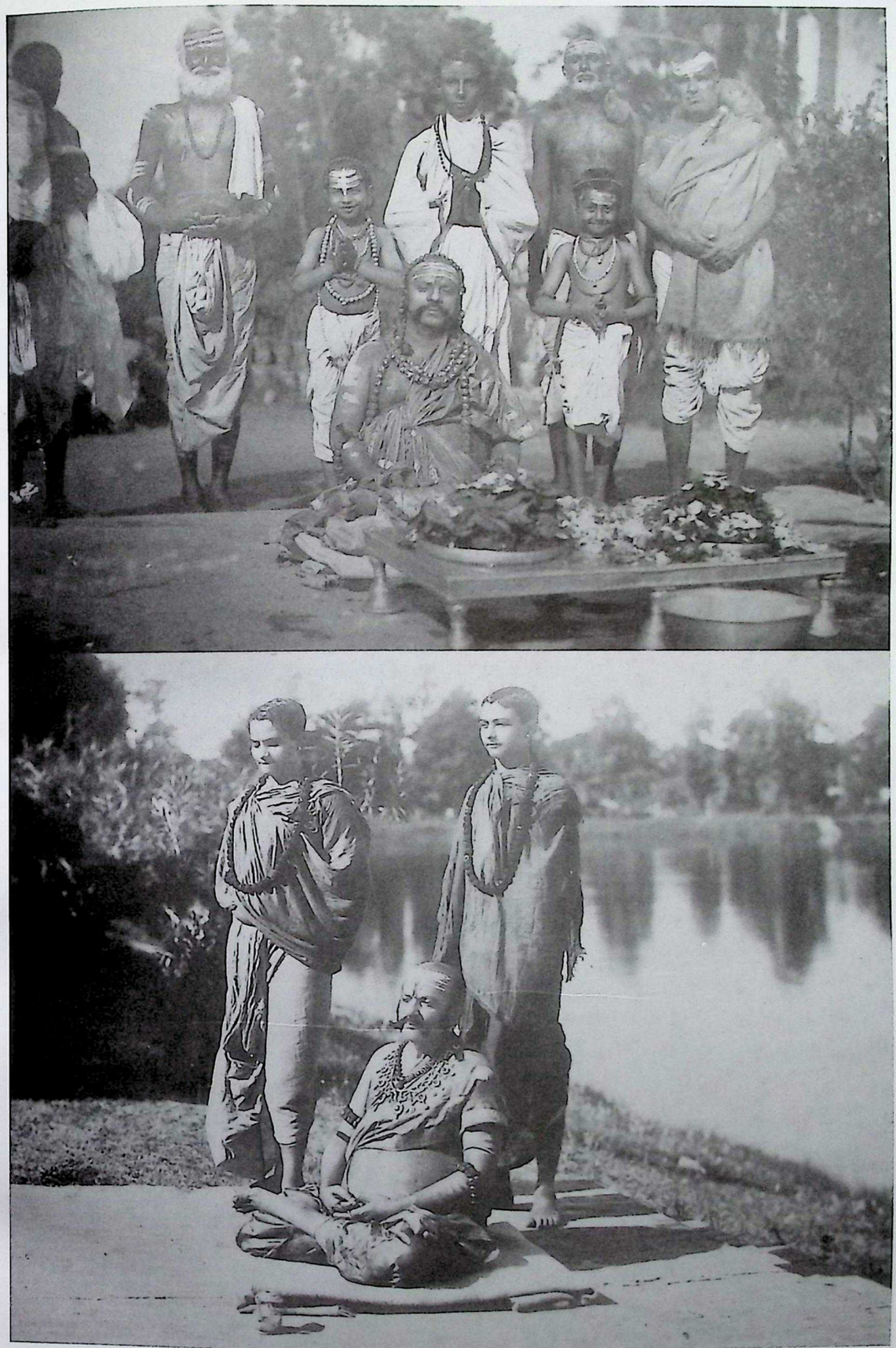

Maharaja Kumar Kameshwar Singh and Maharaja Kumar Visheshwar Singh with
Maharajadhiraja Rameshwar Singh Bahadur

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Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
with Rajmata Sahiba

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
in the Barat Party of Kanhaiyaji

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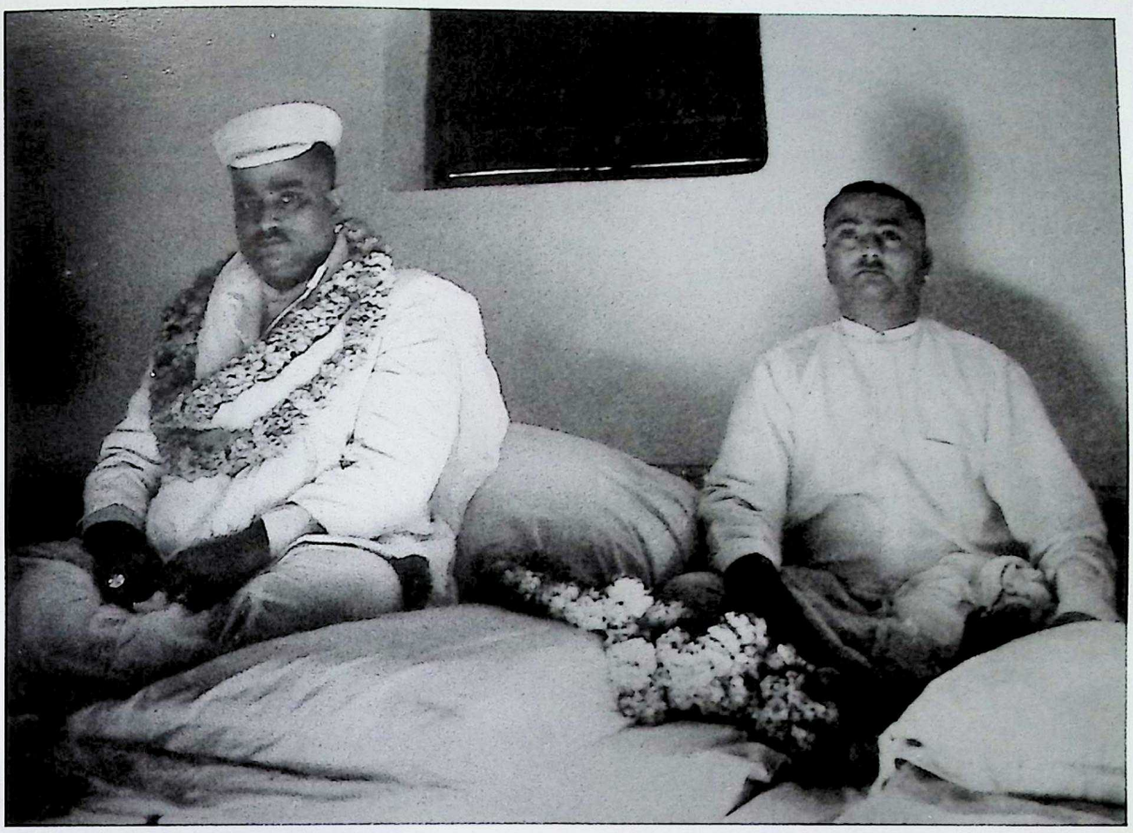

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
with Raja Bahadur Visheshwar Singh

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
with Maharaja Kumar Jiveshwar Singh

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Sitting (L to R) : The Maharaja of Kasimbazar, H.E. the Viceroy, the Maharaja of Darbhanga, H.E. the Countess of Reading, the Nawab Bahadur of Murshidabad, the Nawab Bahadur of Tajhut. Standing (in the middle) Maharaja Kumar Kameshwar Singh

Banquet Hall, Anand Bag Palace, Darbhanga

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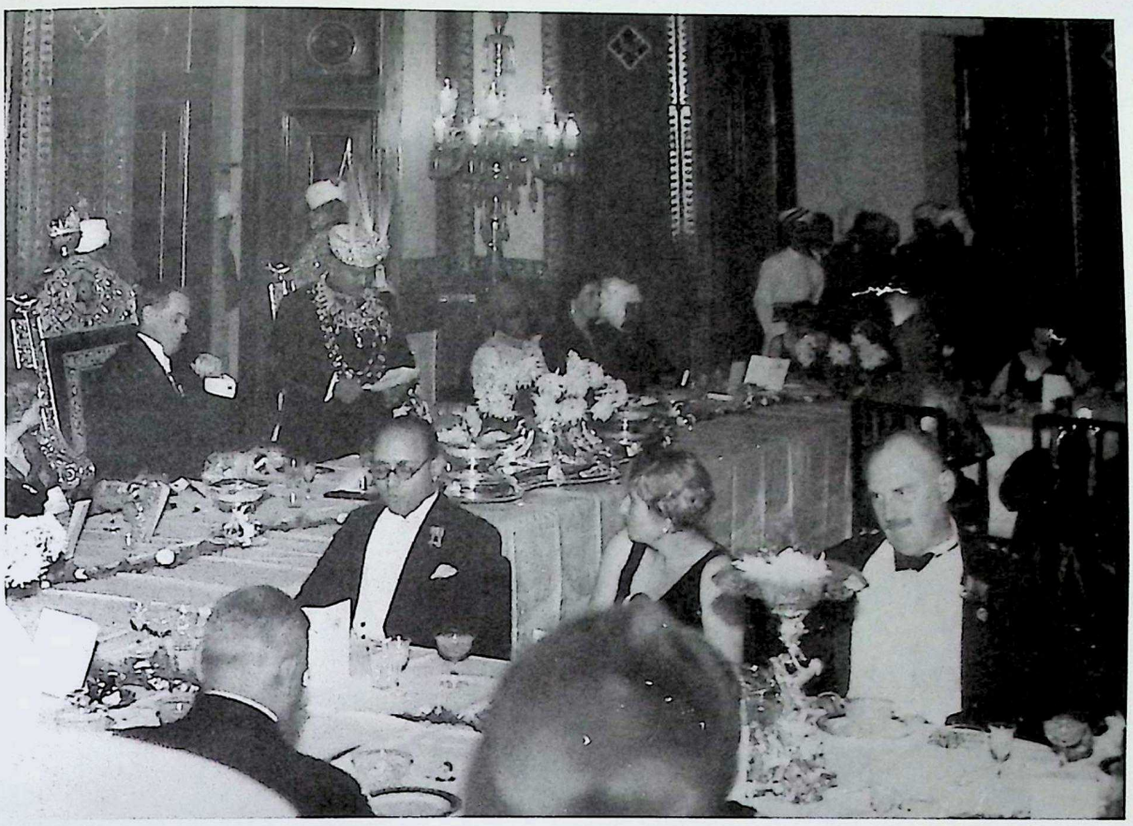

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
with Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy of India (1942) at Anand Bagh Palace, Darbhanga

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh with Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur,
V.P. Menon and other dignitories at Darbhanga House, New Delhi

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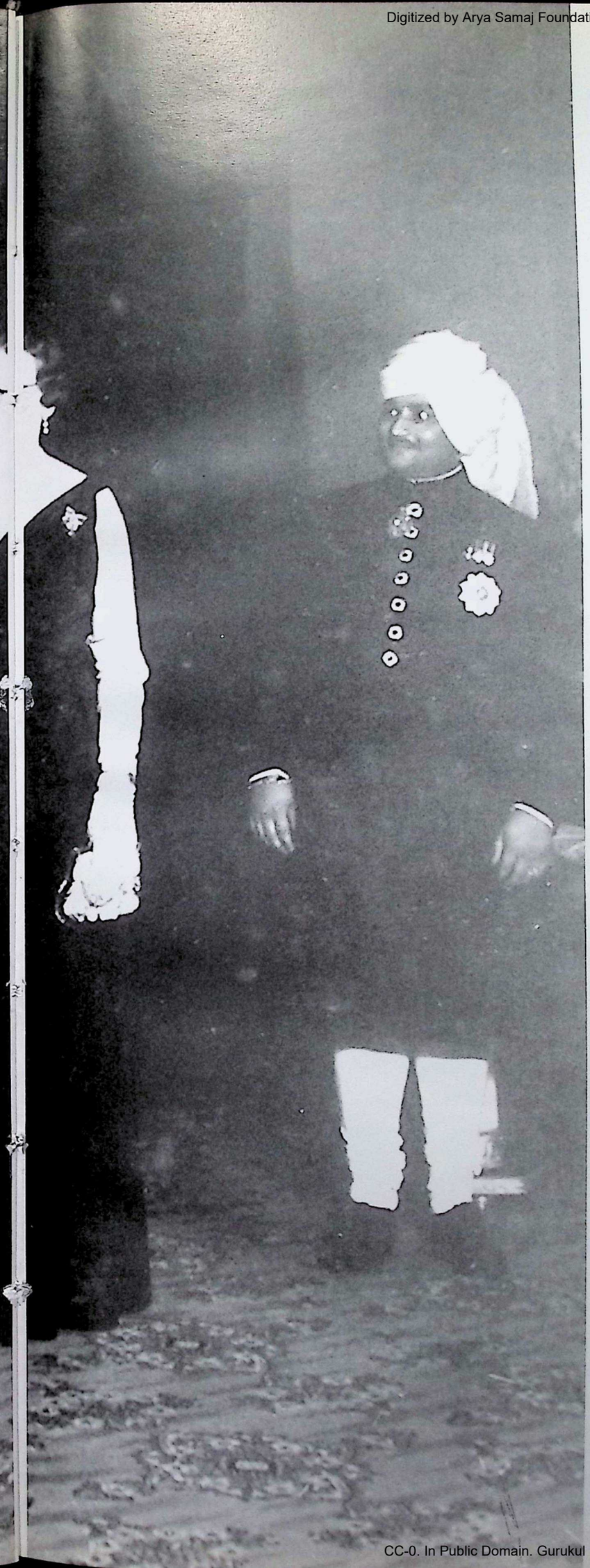

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

LONDON, 1930-31 AND 'SWADESHI'-'VILAYATI' MOVEMENT

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Sultan Palace
Patna

24.8.30

My dear Maharaja,

I was at Ranchi yesterday, and curiously enough the Viceroy's letter about the delegates of the Round Table Conference also reached the Governor the same time. You and I have to bear the burden of the Province on our shoulders. I am a born obedient and I feel that God will give us strength to discharge our responsibilities for the good of our Country. Please don't be nervous in the least and you dont hesitate. You will receive the formal letter by the 1st of Sept. and you must accept it forthwith. It is the will of the providence that something great should be done by you in your young age and that is how things have shaped themselves in this way.

Don't you worry about the other landlords. They won't be able to do much. You and I will be able to make things live. The Princes paid about 20 lakhs to their legal adviser Sir Leslie Scott and got nothing but bricks and that is why this time though others thought of Sinha in the beginning, dropped him in the end. So you will have to do it directly and not through any legal adviser. It will raise your status and position. Let England see that our landlords can explain their positions just as landlords in England can. I am taking some important books with me and we will put forward our case as well as any one in the world. Sifton told me he was very anxious that you should go and so is Sir Hugh Stephenson. So for God's sake, do not let this occasion slip away. This is the chance of a lifetime. You know I have been the well wisher of the family for over 15 years now and that is why I have been pressing you about this matter for the past 2 months.

I wish you and I meet again, but that is not possible. My address is C/o Thomas Cook & Son, Berkley Street, ... Let me know by cable when you reach Marseilles. Also a cable when you actually start.

If not inconvenient to you could you please let me have the cheque before I go.

With affectionate regards,

Yours affectionately,

S. Sultan Ahmed

S. Sultan Ahmed

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D/o No. 10048-G.In
Viceregal Lodge
Simla

24th August 1930

Dear Maharaja Saheb,

His Excellency asks me to say that he has been in communication with the Secretary of State regarding the proposal you made to me in your letter of 12th August that 5 or 6 landlords might be ready to go to London at the time of the Round Table Conference to advise you privately on questions affecting landlords, if they knew that they would be invited to functions given in honour to the Indian delegation. The Secretary of State thinks that so far as purely unofficial hospitality is concerned, there would not likely be much difficulty in arranging that it should be extended to any Indians of standing who came so to speak in the train of delegates, but he thinks that invitations to a state Banquet, for instance, in honour of the delegates would be a difficult matter. His Excellency is inclined to think that if you took one or perhaps two advisers, it might be possible to get them into certain number of functions, but that if they exceeded that number, it would probably be impossible. You would perhaps let me know, In due course, what you would decide to do.

Yours sincerely

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh
of Darbhanga

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Private and Personal

Government House
Ranchi
29, August 1930

My Dear Maharajadhiraja

His Excellency the viceroy is about to issue his invitations to attend the Round Table Conference. I understand that he has already spoken to you at Simla on the subject. I am writing to ascertain if you are willing to attend the Conference in London.

News has just been received that work for the Imperial Conference which precedes the Round Table Conference is likely to take longer than was at first thought and the Indian Delegation will be in plenty of time if they arrive in London by the 25th October, or even November 1st.

Kindly let me have an answer by telegram in a form which will not give away the nature of the communication. I would suggest the formula "accept suggestion in your letter".

Yours Sincerely

J. Shifton

To Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Prasad Singh

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Viceregal Lodge
Simla

7th September 1930

Dear Maharajadhiraja

You are aware that in the Statement which it was my privilege to make on 31st October 1929, I announced that His Majesty's Government proposed in due course to invite representatives of different parties and interests in British India and representatives of the Indian States to meet them for the purpose of conference and discussion in regard both to the British Indian and all-Indian problems. In pursuance of this intention a Round Table Conference will, as you know shortly be held in London, of which the sessions are expected to begin early in November. The question of the composition of the delegation from British India, who will attend the Conference, has, as you know been a subject of earnest consideration. I am now authorised by His Majesty's Government to invite you to meet them in Conference for the purpose described above. I should be glad to learn at as early a date as possible whether you will find it convenient to accept this invitation.

Yours sincerely

Irwin

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh

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INDIAN ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

His Majesty's Government requests the honour of the company of Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Sngh of Darbhanga at Luncheon at 8, Chesterfield Gardens, W.I. on Wednesday, November 5th, 1930, at 1.30 P.M. The Right Honourable Wedgwood Been, D.S.O., D.F.C., M.P. (Secretary of State for India) will preside.

272

His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Indian Round Table Conference

His Majesty's Government

requests the honour of the company of

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Prasad Singh of Darbhanga

at Luncheon at 8, Chesterfield Gardens, W.1, on Wednesday, November 5th, 1930, at 1.30 p.m. The Right Honourable Wedgwood Benn, D.S.O., D.F.C., M.P. (Secretary of State for India) will preside.

An early answer is requested to the Secretary, Government Hospitality, Treasury Chambers, Whitehall, S.W.1. Telephone: Victoria 7210.

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R
954.12304
JHA-C

India Office
Whitehall

8th December 1930

My Dear Maharaja

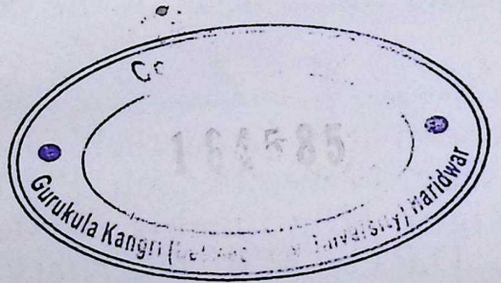
Thank you for your letter of the 6th December representing the desire of the Landlords group for representation on a Committee on Minorities when it is formed. As you know, the composition of the committees is by nomination by the Prime Minister on the advice of the Business Committee. I will see that your letter is not overlooked by the Committee when the time comes.

Yours sincerely,

Wedgewood Benn

Wedgewood Benn
Secretary of State for India

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh of Darbhanga



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The Maharaja of Darbhanga : Mr. Prime Minister, I take this opportunity of welcoming you in our midst again in the presidential chair of the seecond Plenary seasion of the Indian Round Table Conference. It must undoubtedly be a ..... joy to me and to all assembled here, to find that you, a veteran politician and the admitted leader of the British nation, are here to preside over and guide aright the epochmaking deliberation of this epoch-making assembly for framing the future destinies of India. We have never doubted that you were actuated by sincerity of purpose in setting yourself to that task. It was with mingled feelings of joy and pride that I watched from day to day the events on the political horizon in England, your part in the general election, your evergy, your determination, and, above all, your foresight and unprecedented victory. The nation has realised that you can be safely trusted to give a correct lead, and we have seen for ourselves how you have undertaken that glorious task.

I have said all this to assure you. Sir, that I depend on you, as so many here do, to solve the problems confronting Britain and India and ..... raise her to her full stature in the community of the nations of the world as an integral part of the British Commonwealth of nations.

The task is difficult, but not for you I am sure. That it is a complicated one will be admitted on all hands, but that cannot be helped in view of the different shades of opinion to be entertained and respected, the different classes and communities to be provided with adequate safeguards and guarantees in the evolution of the new constitution of India.

The idea that an adequate protection for safeguarding the interests of the various important

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classes or communities or interests as I prefer to call them, would lead to an undesirable fragmentation of the nationalistic ideal does not wholly commend itself to me, for if any one important component part or entity is not cared for, the consruction may be defective. The landlord class, to which I have the honor to belong, have the largest and most important interests at stake in British India, and they should be adequately preserved and safeguarded.

This is the class which is free from any communal bias or tinge so far as their common interests in principle are concerned. The landlords of all the provinces in India claim their lineage from ancient houses, who have held Lands for ages past. The grants of land to us have been made either in recognition of military services rendered to the State or for some other potent reason, and these grants have to be respected and their integrity has to be maintained in future in any new scheme for the government of India. Our previous history is that of unalloyed loyalty to the crown, and we have, whenever occasion presented itself, helped for the maintenance of law and order. We have always respected the pledges expected of us and we trust the pledges given to us will be equally respected by the British Government. Apart form this we have, none the less, done our little bit for progress and development of the Indian nation. During the war our class came forward and helped the Government with men and money to the fullest extent of our capacity. The landlords have always, by their active co-operation in more ways than one, helped to carry on the administration of the Provinces to which they belong, in particular and also in general. For all these considerations combined, I do want to impress on you, Mr. Prime Minister, and on my brother Delegates as well, that the landlord class forms a special class with peculiar proplems of its own - apart from the common problems of public weal - and as such deserves special representation in any new scheme of government. This

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class should also have an electorate and a quota of seats in the central as well as the Provincial Legislatures, commensurate with our interests. It will not do for us to seek entry into the Legislatures through the general constituencies alone evidently for more reasons than one and I am gratified to see that the Lord Chancellor and his Committee have recommended the retention of our special representation. We desire it for the preservation of our rights and for the preservation of our class as a whole and cannot in any way be blamed for it. We do not, by putting forward our claims, want to enrich ourselves at the cost of others, or impede in any way the march of our country towards progress, leading to full nationhood, but we cannot allow the rights and privileges of our class to be ignored or encroached upon.

This brings me to the implications underlying the Premanent Settlement. Sanads granted to us under the Permanent Settlement should be regarded as solemn pledges and their binding nature and sanctity should not be minimised. Any attempt to disregard these or to nullify their value by the imposition of fresh taxes on agricultural incomes will be deemed nothing short of breach of faith. These sanads ought to be regarded as charter of our fundamental rights and should be respected and safeguarded as such.

In regard to the question of Legislatures I should like to impress upon you the necessity of having Upper Houses in the Centre as also in the Provinces where the different interests shoud be adequately represented. A second Chamber is necessary in that it does exercise a salutary check on the impetuosity of the Lower House in many matters and in many ways. It is all the more necessary for a balanced use of power, and, unless there is a check or chastening factor, power stands in danger of being abused.

I shall not take up more of your time, Sir, ... one more point. The tendency of Indian Legislatures has of late been to dabble with problems of social

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reform adversely affecting the religious ideas and traditions of the Hindu community at large. Religious matters or social reform should not be allowed to come within the purview of Legislatures. These questions ..... should be left alone to the leaders of the community or to the care of time and the advance of society in the line of reform by itself. Any such step is regarded as unauthorised and wounds the feelings of those who hold their religious traditions in sacred esteem. The policy of non-interference in all such matters ought, therefore, to be strictly adhered to and to constitute one of the fundamental privileges of the Hindu society.

Thank you again, Mr Chairman".

Chairman : We have dealt with No. 1; we now come to No. 2, to which an amendment is proposed by the Maharaja of Darbhanga. It now reads: "It shall not be lawful, without the previous sanction of the Governor, to introduce any legislation (1) affecting the religion or religious rites of any class or community in the Province," Do I understand that you want to take out the words I have just read, and substitute the words you propose?

Maharaja of Darbhanga : Yes, Sir.

Chairman : The words are: "It shall not be lawful to introduce any legislation affecting directly or indirectly the religion or religious rites of any class or community of His Majesty's subject." You will now propose that amendent.

Mr. Zafarullah Khan : what is the difference?

Chairman : It takes away all power to deal with this matter; it says: not to introduce any legislation directly or indirectly affecting the religion or religious rites of any class or community.

Maharaja of Darbhanga : Sir, the reason of my moving this amendment is that I am convinced that it is entirely wrong that there should be legislation interfering in any religious matters. India is a country of different races, religions and creeds,

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and what one section may consider right is considered wrong by another section. Therefore, I do not think it right to make a hard and fast rule in matters of religion, which means everything to a great majority of people. It touches the core of their heart if they are hindered in any way in religious matters. Sir, I do not for a moment wish to suggest that there is no room for reform. Things have crept in which are attributed to religion, but which may be quite contrary to the religion, itself, but I submit it should be left to the leaders of the community itself to say what changes shall be effected.

Chairman : Yes, but will you please direct yourself to pointing out the difference between the report and the amendment you are proposing. All you are now telling us is admitted in the Report itself. We clearly laid it down that it shall not be lawful without the previous sanction of the Governor.

Maharaja of Darbhanga : I mean to say, religious matters should not be liable to legislation even with the sanction of the Governor.

Chairman : That is the point to which I want you to address yourself.

Sir A.P. Patro : There is nothing in the amendment.

Maharaja of Darbhanga : Then I would suggest that in this particular case the Governor should not give his sanction without consulting the leaders of the communities.

Chairman : I cannot see him doing it without consulting some one, unless he is out for trouble, and serious trouble.

Maharaja of Darbhanga : At times the ideas and the views expressed by some of the leaders have not been considered; for instance, in regard to some of the Bills which have been before the Council, the views of some of the leaders of the society were not at all considered, and legislation contrary to their wishes was allowed to be brought into the Council.

Chairman : You will see the point here is that the Cabinat have got to get the sanction of the Governor before they can interfere in any way. Surely in a matter like this, the

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Governor, for the tranquility of his Province, is going to see to it that his Cabinet does not remain in operation for more than six months without the religious convictions of any section of community : at least I should imagine so. Now, do you propose to press this amendment?

Maharaja of Darbhanga : No, I do not.

Maharajadhiraja with Raja Bahadur Visheshwar Singh

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NOTES OF THE TALKS I HAD WITH THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF DARBHANGA ABOUT ACCOMPANYING HIM TO ENGLAND

By Kumar Ganganand Singh

15th September, 1930

Interviewed Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga to impress upon him that although he was going as a representative of the land-holders he should safeguard Hindu interests in the Round Table Conference; because he must not forget that he is also a Hindu representative from Bihar. He promised to do so and asked me whether I would accompany him to Europe. He showed me the letter he had received from the Private Secretary of the Viceroy to the effect that he could take limited number of Advisors to the different functions connected with the Round Table Conference. I agreed to accompany him if he pays me expenses. He said he would. .....

28th September, 1930

I wrote the following letter to Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga and sent it through Meghnath Mullick:-

Appropos to our conversation and your generous assurance I write this to request the favour of your kindly giving me the following information in order that I may commence preparation for my departure accordingly.

1. What is the date of your departure? When do you want me to join you and where?
2. What procedure you want to follow with regard to the passports of those whom you are taking with you?
3. If I have to arrange for it myself what should I state as the purpose of my visit? Should I say that I go as one of your personal advisors or companions .....
4. For how many months you intend to be abroad?

I was ill, otherwise, I would have written this letter earlier. You must have learnt by now that Mr. Moonje is attending the Conference.

I am sending this letter through a special messenger and solicit the favour of an early reply. More when we meet.

With greetings of the season, best wishes and regards,

Yours etc.

3rd October, 1930

I received the following letter from Meghnath Mullick by post at Srinagar :-

"As ordered I made over the letter this morning. First H.H. enquired from the orderly

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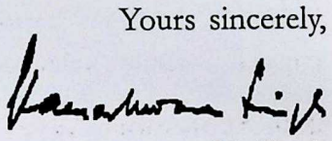
if your honour has arrived personally and on receiving a negative answer went through the letter and ordered that I will have a reply from Maharaja day after tomorrow. H.H.goes to Darbhanga by special train which leaves Rajnagar tomorrow at about 9a.m. Further in my next.

5th October, 1930

Meghnath Mullick met me at Supaul and gave me a reply from Maharajadhiraj Bahadur which reads as follows :-

Thanks for your letter. Not learning from you for so long made me to take for granted that for some reason or other you were unable to go. I therefore made no arrangements. I leave in less than a fortnight. I wonder if you can arrange to leave in such a short time. But please let me know. I hope you are well.

Yours sincerely,



K. Singh

On that I sent him the following reply and sent it through Meghnath Mullick by the evening train with instructions that he should arrange for my conveyance and stay at Darbhanga and meet me there at the station tomorrow at 1 p.m.

My dear Maharajadhiraja Bahadur,

Many thanks for your kind letter. In view of the shortness of time at our disposal I propose to reach Darbhanga tomorrow by 1 p.m. train to personally discuss the various points mentioned in my previous letter. I shall be highly obliged if you kindly grant me an interview on the same day. As it will be convenient for the purpose of my visit to stay at Darbhanga. I hope you will not mind ordering for my stay and conveyance."

6th October, 1930

Saw Maharaja at 3.30 p.m. It transpired that on account of the difficulties created by R.K.Jha in compromise matter he took it for granted that I would not go. So he made no arrangement for me. He said that he would wire if any room was available in the boat in which he was going and let me know by wire.

I told him that I would go only if he wanted my services whereupon he warmly said that I would be of great help to him. He volunteered that he would be delighted if I could go with him.

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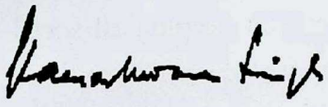
He gave me a letter in the name of the Chief Secretary (Mr. Hallet) saying that I was going to England with him and he should see his way to grant me a passport.

The Palace
Darbhanga, 8th 30.

Dear Mr.Hallet,

Kumar Ganganand Sinha is going to England with us in connection with the R.T.Conference and is going to apply to you for a passport which I hope you will see your way of granting.

Yours sincerely,



K. Singh

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PRIVATE & STRICTLY PERSONAL.

My dear Maharajdhiraja Bahadur,

I do not know how to express my gratitude for your so very kind letter of the 7th instant. It clearly indicates that although for the moment I am out of your sight, I am by no means out of your mind; and that is enough to cheer me up. Wherever I am, I shall never forget your unfailing courtsey, kindness and sweetness of disposition and I only wish that I may have the privilege of rendering you such service as I can.

I came here on the 28th ultimo. The marriage of my cousin was celebrated on the 25th ultimo without any hitch and he came here with the bride on the 9th instant. Among my relations some have come, others are keeping aloof under one pretext or the other. The Brahmins of the locality and specially of this village have ceased keeping all social connections with us. People think that we are too poor now to support them and nothing will be gained by taking our side in opposition to the Banaili Raj proprietors. Situated as I am I cannot eradicate that notion from their mind. I am watching the situation and doing the needful and shall of course discuss the matter with you when I shall have the honour of meeting you. Had we been financially well off I am sure it would not have taken us even two days to set the question at rest. ..... This in brief is the state of things here.

I am anxious to know as to how the Sotis are behaving.

Except my wife all the members of my family are doing well. Contrary to the expectations of my neighbours I did not experience any difficulty in my family circle.

With my best regards and complements.

Remain
Ever yours

Sd/-
Ganganand Sinha

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From
Atul Chandra Kumar

DUM-DUM SPECIAL JAIL

PRISONER'S LETTER

Dum-Dum Special Jail,
Dum-Dum P.O.
(24 Pergs)

1-2-1931

Dear Kumar Saheb,

My pen is unable to express the words of congratulation on your safe arrival .... from a country which upto date was in the esteem of the backward society of ours a prohibited land. You and His Highness Maharaja Bahadur have rendered a great service to our society by taking a bold stand against all odds in sailing, it was a great achievement from a social point of view, ... Both Maharajadhiraj and you have given a new light in our society from which it was deprived so long. Though too late still better than never.

Now, it should be the point of His Highness Maharaja Bahadur to see that the poor brothers of his community willing to sail for education should get His Highness' support and sympathy.

Now you should take care of holding the 2nd session of the proposed A.I.M.Y. Conference in the month, be able to join it if it is held in the 2nd week of April if not earlier. People of my society were eagerly expecting your arrival and they were insisting me about the conference. I will be eagerly expecting a detail note from you regarding the general attitude of the samaj and also about holding the conference. Please let me know about the health of your brother who was in England. I hope you will kindly write to me at an early date and oblige.

with due regards.

Sincerely Yours

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131, Cornwallis st.
Calcutta

26.2.1931

Hon'ble Kumarjee,

We learnt your momentous and epock making return to Mithila after a ....., in England and it is to our expectation that no cry is made from the conservative group against it. The situation of proper Mithila is still not coming clearly to us. ..... In Calcutta some educated and liberal Maithils have planned to present an address to the Maharaja and to you .....

We are alright here.

Yours affectionately,

Sd/-
Newalal

You will be pleased to learn that this is proposed solely by ..... Babu Jatadhar Mishra, the back-bone of educated Maithils.

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Pindaruch
5.3.1931

My dear Sriman Kumarjee,

As the Courts are closed on acct. of the Holi holidays, I have come home and hence I am writing this letter from this place. At the last meeting of the Executive Committee of the Maithil Mahasabha, held on the 1st of March, we decided, by 40 against 5, to give a Garden Party to the Maharajadhiraj, on behalf of the Maithil Mahasabha. It was resolved, in connection with the annual sitting of the Mahasabha, that a letter be written to Pt. Shiveshwar Jha and others enquiring from them whether they would be able to hold the annual conference in Sotipura in the Easter; if they do not give any reply within a week or if they express inability the conference will be held at Darbhanga. So, these two important resolutions have been passed at the last meeting. We saw the Maharajadhiraj on the 3rd at Samastipur. Some of us wanted that the party be held as soon as possible. I was, however, against this, as the management would require some time. H.H. said that before the 30th we would not be able to return from Delhi. 30th is Monday and is a court day. I, therefore, think that 30th would not suit outsiders. H.H. has left the choice of date to us. I, therefore, propose to hold the party on the 3rd April. Please let me know your opinion about this whether this date would suit you and to those who will be coming from Bhagalpur and Purnea. Besides, please supply me with a list of persons whom we should invite in your locality. We want a representative party. I expect a lot of persons would be willing to come here in our party. I want suggestions from you in connection with this party regarding the following :

1. Date of party
2. Class of persons to be invited
3. Manner of party
4. Eatables in the party
5. Amusement in the part.

As regards the sitting of the annual conference, I think the conference will not be held at Darbhanga, as Shiva Babu is not ready, so far I am aware, to hold the conference at Sotipura. We may now hold the sitting of the A.I.M.Y. Conference on the 3rd and the 4th, and the sitting of the Maithil Conference on the 5th & the 6th. We shall hold the sitting of the A.I.M.Y. Conference at the Town Hall and that of the Maithil Conference at the premises of the Saraswati Academy (Laheriasarai) So that there will not be any inconvenience to the attending public. We require your help, so we request you to come here a week earlier. Besides, please lend us the services of Bindhu Babu at least for a week before the party. I have been entrusted with the entire management of the party, hence I require his help in this connection.

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Please bring your Hindi Typewriter with you. It will be of immense use to the A.I.M.Y. Conference. We have elected Ch. Kedarnath Thakur of Singhwara, as Chairman of the Reception Committee of the A.I.M.Y.C. I do not know whether the Secretary has got acceptance letter and whether we shall have to go personally to request him to accept the honour. As the Secretary is a new man, the Standing Committee members should help him with suggestions in connection with the conference. We shall draw up the programme just after the reopening. of the Courts both of the A.I.M.Y.C. and the Maithil Mahasabha. We shall allot time with regard to the convenience of the attending outsiders.

Rest nothing at present. You will please reply me by the Laheriasarai address.

Yours,

Sd/-

Nabin Chandra

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1, Middleton Street,
Calcutta.

7.3.1931

My dear Kumar Sahib.

You must be thinking me to be one utterly void of manners and a most ungrateful person for I have not written to you. But I have been very busy and had been home for holi. I do hope you have arrived safely and found all your family and people well. It is needless to tell you how grateful I am to you for all the help which you so kindly gave me.

No doubt you will be criticised now but I am certain that time will justify our action.

I hope you will write to me off and on and tell me how you are getting on.

With all good wishes for your happiness.

Yours very truly,

K. Singh

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P.O. Srinagar,
District-Purnea,

The 11th March, 1931.

My dear Kumar Babu,

I had the pleasure of receiving your kind note of the first Feb. 1931 on my return from Europe. I shall now have the pleasure of meeting you very soon. I am addressing it to your home address hoping that you will return there before this letter reaches you. The next session of the All India Maithil Youth Conference will be held during the Easter Holidays at Darbhanga. The next meeting of our Standing Committee will be held there on the 2nd of April. Please make it a point to attend it with as many young Maithils of progressive views as possible. The whole Maithil community is astir on our return and there is a sharp division of views on the question of going to the foreign countries. But I have every reason to hope that the question will be settled according to our wishes in a few months if we are able to give a good fight. I am trying for the co-operation of the Maharajadhiraj and I have every reason to believe that he will work hand in hand with us. Kumar Vijayanand Sinha is married and he came here with his bride yesterday. I have a lot to talk to you and I am looking forward to meet you at an early date. When I know that you are at home I will arrange if possible that we may meet before the sitting of the conference. The Maithil Mahasabha will also hold its session at the same time and probably at the same place.

Thanking you for your kind expressions about me .

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
G. Sinha

Sj. Atul Chandra Kumar
P.O. Araidanga,
Dt.-Malda.

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Srinagar Darbar
P.O. Srinagar
Distt. Purnea

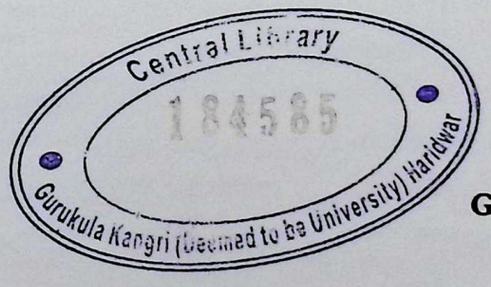
11.3.31

My dear Bhupendra,

It is indeed after a long time that I am writing this letter to you. I left this country for Europe in October last and returned here on the 28th ultimo. I was in London when the Round Table Conference was sitting and did all I could from outside to assist the Indian delegation. The trip was very enjoyable and all along I kept a very good health. On coming here I find myself face to face with social problem that have cropped up on account of Maharaja of Darbhanga's and my breaking the barrier so long existing in the society. My uncle was on death bed when the last general election took place and even otherwise I was not in a proper mood to go to the present Assembly. My friend Gaya Prasad is there. You must have noted that so far the Round Table Conference move is going on well. The Congress participation itself is a proof of the fact that the foundation of goodwill laid in London is not without its meaning. Really Mahatma Gandhi is one of the greatest men of the world. I have found that he is loved and respected all over Europe by those who happen to know about him and are not imperialistic in outlook. The Hindu-Muslim question is really the greatest stumbling block in one way. The Muslim device generally is to draw upon the partition of the Hindu who are left to choose between freedom from British control and freedom from unjustified weightage. Let us see how things turn after the entry of the Congress-Moslim in the party.

It is now over a year that my wife is ailing. But for her we are quite well.

Hope this finds you in the best of your health and spirits.



Affectionately
yours,

Sd/-
Ganganand Sinha

Babu Bhupendra Chandra Chakravarty
Agartala.

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The 12th March, 1931.

My dear Nabin Babu,

Many thanks for your letter of the 5th instant. I am very glad to learn of the decision of the Executive Committee of the Maithil Mahasabha. I intend to be at Darbhanga by the end of this month. As regards the date of the Garden Party I would suggest that it should be held on the 3rd April. That would suit every body. You should invite (a) all educated persons (whether they be educated in English, Sanskrit or Hindi) (b) all panjibadha persons (c) all Sotis (d) all Zamindars (e) all persons having sufficient income from land or other resources ..... to have a fair hold on the society and (f) all political workers. I am in favour of issuing invitations on this big scale because the Maithil Mahasabha professes to represent the whole community and no body should have any occasion for complaint in the matter of the invitation. I am aware that only a fraction of the people invited will attend but then the blame will fall not on the Mahasabha but on the people not joining it. You should request the persons invited to definitely intimate at least a week before the party whether they are coming or not. Sharbat and light refreshments should be served. If the response is encouraging you might think of a Dinner Party before we disperse after the Mahasabha session. Vocal and instrumental music preferably by Maithil musicians may be arranged for amusement. I would like that the invitations should be issued also to Maithils residing outside Mithila. You may ask the members of the standing committee of the A.I.M.Y.C. to furnish you with the names. Refreshments might be served on table or on floor according to the wishes of the invited guests.

With regard to the All India Maithil Youth Conference the Reception Committee should invite suggestion with reference to the President of the next session and the Reception Committee should come to a decision about it by the 22nd of this month. I am getting the Secretary of the Standing Committee to issue a statement in regard to this matter. So, all that the Reception Committee is to do is to consider the suggestion if any and come to a decision. Even if it does not receive any suggestion by the date mentioned it should come to a decision. I have already given you my opinion in this matter. I am glad that Kedar Babu has been elected the Chairman of the Reception Committee. I have written to the Secretary of the Reception Committee to let me know about his activities. I am ever ready to give him every possible assistance. Even on the 15th and 6th April I hope you will allot morning hours to the A.I.M.Y.C. at the time of making the programme.

More in my next.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
Ganganand Sinha

Babu Nabindra Chandra Chaudhary,
Pleader, P.O. Laheriaarai, Darbhanga

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P.O. Srinagar,
District
Purnea,

The 17th March,
1931.

My dear Newalal,

Your post card dated the 26th February reached me yesterday. We are facing opposition from those who pose to be conservatives in social matter. As a matter of fact the Brahmins of this village have cut all social connections with us. Amongst my relatives, however, many have associated themselves with us.

I do not know when it will be possible for me to go to Calcutta and whether the Maharajdhiraj will also happen to be there at that time but I will have a talk with him when I meet him next and let you know what he says about your proposal to give us an address. I am thankful to you and your collegues for the kind suggestions.

I have already written to you about the all India Maithili Youth conference and have nothing to add to it

with best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
G. Sinha.

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Srinagar (Purnea)
The 2nd October, 1931

My dear Maharajdhiraja Bahadur,

I am very glad to learn of your safe arrival at London from a press telegram to me dated the 26th ultimo. I hope you will have a pleasant time there. From the reports we got here, the prospects of R.T.C. do not seem to be bright. As a matter of fact no progress has so far been made by the Federal Structure sub-Committee. The opinions as to details are as divided as ever and the fundamentals still remain unsettled. I guess that in the atmosphere that prevails it will be a tough job for you to get for the Landlords all that you want. But I think that it is never desirable to alienate the sympathy of the nationalist Indian leaders.The Conference may break, the reign of terror may prevail in India, chaos may take the place of peace and order but nothing can check the passion for freedom that has taken possession of the hearts of the masses with whom the fate of the Landlords is indissolubly linked. I am anxiously watching the trend of events and praying that the Conference may be a success and your part in the deliberations may be a creditable one.

My cousin (Narayan jee) is, I understand, landing at Madras on the 8th October. That is a matter of great joy to the family. But at the same time we are not without anxiety and worry on this account. He has to perform Prayaschitta, and ever and above that, Sradha at Gaya, since he is the eldest son of my uncle, who died during his stay in London. Unless he does so, even those persons of our community who have mixed with us will break away. To have the religious rites performed means an expenditure of nearly Rs.2000/- even on modest calculation. We fear that we shall have to spend a lot to get Prayaschitta Vyavastha for him since his case is a little different from ours. Wherefrom the money will come is the problem of problems. The Receiver has taken charge of every bit of our estate and our allowance has not yet been fixed. The general economic distress is topping everything. It has become difficult for us to have even the necessities of life with the resources left to us. But considering the present temper of the society this is an item of expenditure which we cannot avoid, however useless and unwarrantable it may seem to be to progressives, unless we want to say good-bye to either the Maithil community, or my cousin for ever. Even in that case you will realise that blood is thicker than water and it will be more difficult for us to leave my cousin than to leave the community howsoever unwilling we may be to adopt the course. Since you have led to the way for the social reform of this nature I venture to think that you will come to our aid in every possible way. I am therefore thinking of taking the liberty of wiring to you for instructing the Raj Pandits and Kumar Saheb to render us all possible help. If you were in this country I am sanguine that it would have been much easier for me to solve the problem. But even now I think that your instructions will have the desired effect. We hope to get Prayaschitta Vyavastha from eminent Pandits and have reasons to believe that if I receive your sympa-

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thy and support it will be an easy matter for us to tide over the socio-religious difficulties. I have written to you at such a length with the intention of acquainting you with every detail of the matter so that you may know how much our social existence depends on the satisfactory termination of this event.

There is one other matter to which I think I should refer. It has been reported to me that some people - whose identity it is impossible to trace - are going about telling things that may prejudice the minds of Your Highness as well as that of your officers against us. I do not know how far their mischievous activities are succeeding. But since Your Highness knows me well, I need only say that if there is any such thing I may be given an opportunity of explaining it. I am always anxious to protect the cordial relationship that has sprung up between us through, I should say, the grace of providence. Please let not mischief-mongers destroy it by propagating lies, half truths misrepresentations etc.

Trusting that this letter finds you in the best of your health and spirits and has not caused you any annoyance.

With my best regards,

Yours ever the same,

Sd/-
Ganganand Sinha

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Srinagar (Purnea)
November 13, 1931

My dear Maharajadhiraja Bahadur,

I donot know how to express my gratitude to you for your so very kind and affectionate letters dated the 17th September and 15th October last which I had the pleasure of receiving at Benares. I deeply regret that it was not possible for me to give a prompt reply.

I left the place on the 10th October and returned on the 9th instant. Even during the Poojas I was not here. It took nearly three weeks to get the Prayaschitta Vyavastha from Mahamahopadhyaya Raje Misra. I found that the Benares Maithils and Pandits are full of spite against Pandit Raje Misra for giving us the Vyavastha and can play even the dirtiest trick to discredit him. In fact, I was myself a victim of a foul conspiracy of this nature. I shall tell you all about it when face to face. The real trouble is that the bulk of the people look to their own immediate gain and loss and do not take a long view of the thing. As soon as they are disappointed they turn to be oppositionist and carry on vilest propaganda against those who espouse the cause of going abroad. Again, if they happen to have any ..... grudge against us or those who are associated with us they exploit the credulity of the ignorant to injure the social position of those who want to bring about the reform. After my cousin had performed the Prayaschitta in accordance with the Vyavastha given by Raje Misra we went to Gaya for Sradha. We stayed there for about a week. Now I am back home with my cousin. Although I was very much handicapped for money I could some how manage all these. I have yet to fight my ground inch by inch in the Society and Your Highness's kind assurance of help is of inestimable value.

It is extremely sweet of you to think of me - a poor little thing. It is no small gratification to me to think that I have earned some space in your heart. I pray to God that I may keep it for ever .....

I am anxiously looking forward for the successful termination of the R.T.C. I think the issues will be decided in the course of the next ten days. Events are moving rather very rapidly.

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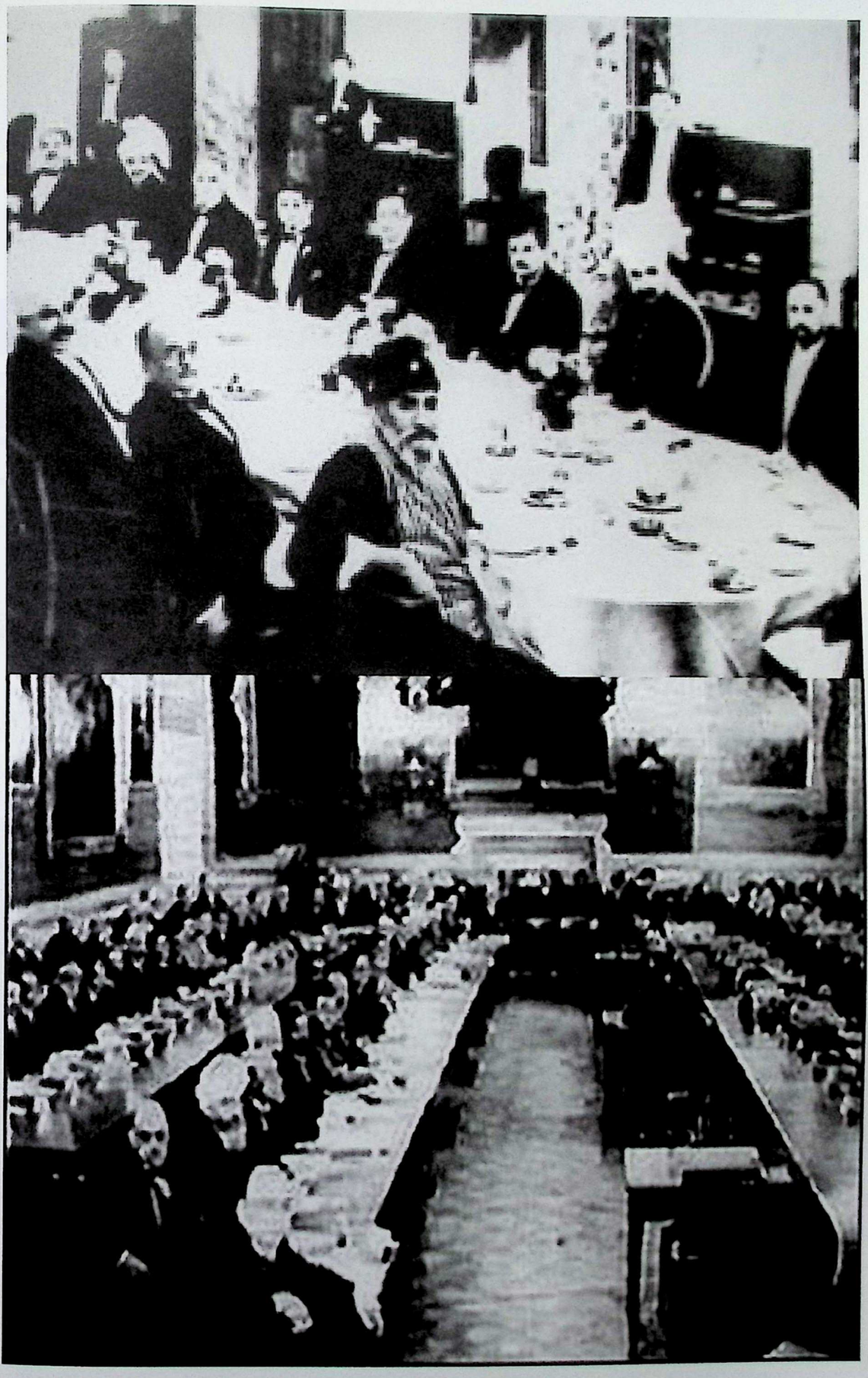

Indian Round Table Conference, London, 1930-31

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POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

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CONFIDENTIAL

CAWNPORE
10th February, 1930

POLITICS

My dear Kameshwar,

I am hoping that this brief note will catch you before you leave for Delhi. The point that I am going to raise is worth your very serious thought as you go along in the train undisturbed.

At Darbhanga a few days ago, I mentioned to a group of your Landlord friends that I had considerable suspicion about the form of dominion status as advocated by Sapru and his Liberal Party. And that I had grave doubts about the desirability of backing Sapru's movement, except with very definite limitations. Your friends raised their hands in horror, saying that though they had this fear at the back of their minds it was most necessary to be very careful in referring to it.

I am afraid that I do not at all agree with them. I think the stakeholder in this Country may quite well attend Sapru's Conference; but in doing so they should be very frank and open from the commencement, in saying that they reserve their opinions as to the form Dominion Status should take. You ask your shrewd advisor Vaidyanath Jha if I am not right in advocating caution. The Liberal group is composed of men who are largely lawyers and for the most part with personal ambitions in front of them. Every day that I think this matter over, I am coming more and more strongly to the conclusion that the only possible solution is that advocated by the Princes, viz., a federation of Indian States. I am going to study the matter carefully now at Delhi, It behoves you to do likewise. To me their proposals hold out the best safeguards for landed proprietors like your self. And what is more, you should in considering this alternative, bear in mind that the time is nearly ripe when we should make a further effort in regard to that matter of your inclusion in the ranks of the Ruling Chiefs.

Yours sincerely

C. T. Allen.

C.T. Allen

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CALCUTTA
The 2nd Dec. 1932

My dear Bhupen,

I am here and shall stay for three or four days. You are right when you say that I picked up the closeness of mind subsisting between me and new Maharajadhiraja during my London tour. He is making a debut into the public life and I am here to assist him. Of course I pass on as his Private Secretary. My own affairs I have placed in the hands of my brothers who are old enough to look after them and my chief ambition at the present moment is to see this young luminary of nobility shine in full glory in the political firmament of India. My portfolio is politics and not administration. I find him exceedingly nice. But distant future is always misty. During this month I shall be travelling a lot and I would therefore request you to address your reply C/o H.H. the Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga, Darbhanga. I hope this finds you in the best of your health and spirits.

Yours affectionately,

Sd/-
G.Sinha

Bhupendra Chandra Chakravarty,Esqr. M.A.
Agartala
Tripura State

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Mahatama Gandhi in Darbhanga

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HIS HIGHNESS'S PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH AT PATNA, ON 19TH JANUARY, 1933.

INAUGURAL MEETING OF "BIHAR UNITED PARTY"

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My first and foremost duty this morning is to welcome you to this Conference and thankfully express my gratitude for the honour you have done me by electing me to preside over it.

Ever since the September Conference at Ranchi, in which we decided to form a party, the subject has, I dare say, attracted a considerable amount of public notice. But before I come to it, let me express the profound sense of grief and irreparable loss which the Organising Committee felt by the sudden demise of one of our most respected and beloved colleagues, Sir Ali Imam, on whose co-operation and support we had counted so much. I fancy that, although he is not amongst us to-day ....., the spirit that enthused us at Ranchi still endures and spurs us on towards the fulfilment of the noble object he had in view. I consider his great speech at Ranchi to be the last will and testament about the future of the public life of the province of which he was one of the makers. On those of us who mourn his loss has undoubtedly fallen a great burden of carrying out his wishes and complete his unfinished work for the cause, for which he lived and died.

We have met this morning to formally inaugurate the party, which we propose to call the Bihar United Party, in pursuance of a resolution passed at Ranchi on the 4th September, 1932. Many of us present here were parties to it and they will be merely translating their own wishes into action. Others who have very kindly come here in response to my invitation, I believe, also agree with the object with which this party is going to be established. But I am painfully aware of the fact that there are many who, while broadly and substantially holding the same view as we do, look upon this party with a certain amount of disfavour and suspicion. I propose therefore to make a few observations about the party.

Our proposal for a party has been subjected to considerable criticism. One of the main criticisms has been that its formation is premature; that we should wait and see what form the Government of India Bill may take, before we start our career. My reply to this argument is that we have to face within probably the next twelve months a fateful election which will have an immense effect for good or ill on the destinies of our province. That election will determine to whom will be allotted the task of initiating the first autonomous Government of the province and starting it on the road of progress. With this prospect, can we rest content that there should be only one party in the field whose programme has hitherto been purely negative? Whether that party will or will not take

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part in the working of the new constitution, I cannot even now prophesy; but I hold strongly that negation is not statesmanship. And our province will be gravely endangered unless the reforms find it prepared with a united party to replace the present Government and if the province is left to the haphazard results of an election of individuals with no common interest and no link of common policy. Statesmanship and self-interest alike demand that the reforms should not find us unprepared, as we must be if we postpone action any longer.

A second line of criticism is at our presumption in calling ourselves the Bihar United Party, and it is said that the coalition of discordant elements will be of short duration. Gentlemen, union is strength, and we must have a strong party to take over the reins of Government and guide it on the path of prosperity, not a collection of groups, each playing for its own hand, and only combining by accident, but a party already in being, with a common purpose and policy and commanding general confidence. We intend to rise above castes and creeds and sectional interests which have split Bihar in the past into so many warring camps, and to unite the common purpose of making the new constitution a success, and show the world that the Indians of Bihar can administer their province successfully and lead it on to progressive betterment.

To those who are prepared to cavil at the Bihar United Party, I would point to the success already obtained. The first obstacle to union was the difference existing between landlords and tenants under the Tenancy Law. That obstacle has been surmounted. The Committee appointed at Ranchi has done its work and a bill is to be introduced in the current session of Council which goes far to put on a satisfactory footing the relations between the two main partners in agriculture. I claim that a good start has been made to justify our name, and that we may look forward confidently to the future for progressive increase in the establishment of goodwill among the communities of our province. But that will be just the beginning of the programme which this party will endeavour to carry out to promote the social and economic betterment of the country in general and province in particular. Further, it will be our earnest endeavour to get into this party all people who, although they stand for peace, progress and stability of the country, yet for one reason or the other could neither identify themselves with either the present-day Congress or the present-day Government. I would go further, and say that we hope to get in this party persons who had so long identified their interest with those of the Government or of the Congress, but who now realise that ours is the best policy to follow in the changed condition of things.This consideration and hope, Gentlemen, encouraged me to pursue the idea of the formation of the party which we have met to-day to inaugurate.We wish to call this party Bihar United Party advisedly, because we seek to unite on this platform people who hitherto belonged to different camps and include in our Working Committee due representation of all. From such a unity we seek to derive strength for serving our motherland.

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I wish to emphasise this point because of the misgivings that are generally felt with respect to this party. Much of these misgivings, if I have been able to read the public mind correctly, arise from two great misconceptions, viz. (1) that the Government of to-day will utilise this party in ruling this province, although to all appearances it will be non-existent; and (2) that the landlords will dominate the future legislature to the detriment of other classes. To these charges I have got only one submission to make and that is that in the future constitution the power is going to pass out of the hands of the bureaucracy to the hands of the people. It does not require much intelligence to understand that the security for a peaceful administration in future will lie not in the hands of the officialdom as it is constituted at present, but in keeping the people of Bihar happy and contended. Even if it may be granted that so long the landlords were looking to the bureaucracy for the preservation of their rights and interests it goes without saying that the time is fast approaching when they must identify their interests with those of the peasantry of this land for their own preservation. In the new order of things the landed proprietors will not be able to keep their position as leaders if the people are alienated from them and it is with the intention of standing shoulder to shoulder with them that we have outlined the creed of the party in the manner in which we have done. But the sceptic would say, that the "proof of the pudding is in the eating". Since we are to-day merely inaugurating the party, I would simply say "wait and see". Our action will no doubt be judged by the bar of public opinion .....; and with heart within and God overhead, I am confident that the popular verdict will be in our favour.

I have now to tell you that the Organising Committee which was formed at Ranchi to do the spade work in these directions, has under the able secretaryship of the Raja Sahib of Surajpura, succeeded in discharging its duties well.

The Raja Sahib has been visiting one district after another and meeting all classes of people to remove the misunderstandings that had unfortunately arisen in respect to this party and gathering support for it. He will place before you for your consideration the reports of the Constitution, Finance and Agrarian Sub-Committees that have been adopted by the Organising Committee. But I crave your indulgence to say a few words about them as the President of the Committee.

The labours of the Constitution Sub-Committee which met for two days are embodied in the proposed Creed of the Bihar United Party which I have circulated to you along with my invitation letter and I take this opportunity to offer our thanks to the members of the Organising Committee for the great pains taken in drafting it and putting it lucidly in the proper form. There will be found to-day a very large number of men who do not desire anything more than an immediate establishment of Dominion Status for India, call it by that name or by another nomenclature, "Substance of Independence". If you will look to clause (b) of the objects of the party you will notice that the condition precedent to our working the next instalment of reforms is that we must have by the same statute

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complete Provincial Autonomy and responsibility at the centre with such safeguards as are in the interest of India. I wonder if there is anybody save and except a very small group of ultra-extremists who can have any objection to work the constitution under these conditions.

The success of the party will undoubtedly depend mainly on its ability to bring about a solution of differences between the landlords and tenants and I suppose that this is going to be one of its chief planks. As you all perhaps know that in the agreement between the landlords and the tenants on the tenancy question, the landlords have shown readiness to concede to a considerable extent, in order to achieve their object of establishing relations of cordiality, amity and goodwill with them. I only hope that the tenants will appreciate the spirit in which the agreement was arrived at. I strongly feel that it is really the spirit that matters. "Trust begets trust". If the tenants accept this gesture of goodwill on the part of the landlords with the same cordiality with which it has been made and create an atmosphere in which the landlords will feel their interest safe in the hands of the tenants and vice versa, it will surely usher an era into being which will be one of peace and properity to the country. To my mind landed interest is one and in that interest is wrapped up the fate of both the landlords and the tenants. If these two classes of people continue to fight and remain in separate camps, they must bid good-bye to any hope of agricultual improvements. It is only by the combination of the two sections of the landed interest that this agricultural country of ours can hope to emerge successfully from the present-day economic crisis. I trust that the efforts of all members of our party may evolve a common plan by which they can successfully solve the problems such as agricultural indebtedness, better produce from their land, better market for their produce, which alone can contribute towards their social and economic uplift.

The Finance Sub-Committee has put forward a tentative scheme for raising the party's fund, which has been approved by the Organising Committee. You know that it is impossible to run a political party without adequate funds and the sole criterion of the formula for the same has been the capacity of individual members to pay. It is, however, open to the party to evolve any alternative scheme which may serve the purpose, if this financial scheme does not meet with its approval. But every member will have to keep it in his mind that, unless there is a strong fund behind, the objects of the party and all it stands for cannot be achieved.

Do not refuse to co-operate with us from the very beginning on account of one imaginary suspicion or another. We are anxious to make our organisation a truly representative body of all classes and communities, and if the people of all classes and communities join it they will see that none of them has been ignored in the matter of representation and the sharing of responsibility. But it must be remembered that in a representative body like the one we are contemplating to have everybody cannot possibly have all that he wants; because differences are bound to arise and each one of them shall have to be adjusted and harmonised for the common good of the country.

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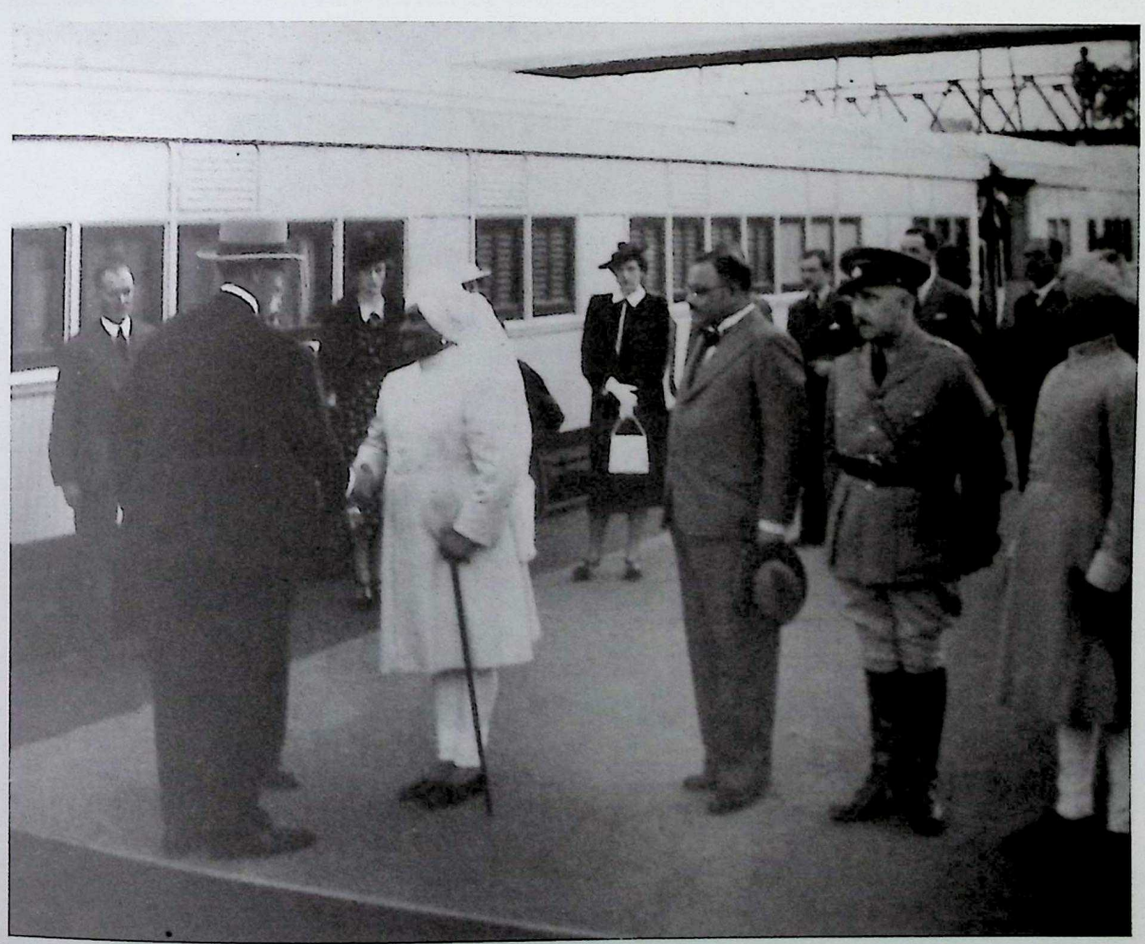
Ladies and Gentlemen, look at Bihar! What do you behold? A beautiful province with wonderful agriculture and commercial advantages - seat of ancient empires, birth-place of ancient learning and culture, watered by deep and numerous rivers with various climates and a soil teeming with easy fertility and inhabited by generous and peace-loving people. Such is the natural Bihar. Such is Bihar as God made her and such we intend to make her again if we can overcome the disunity, jealousy and rivalry of its own people.

Is it not your duty, therefore, to sink your differences? Concentrate your attention more and more on the question of education, sanitation, communication, industry and last, but not the least, agriculture, to bring back this province to its ancient prosperity and glory. Will the people of Bihar be justified in carrying on their feuds and frittering away their energy and spirits of enterprise in futile pursuits calculated to lead them to destruction? Is it still too early for them to realise that the interest of the province needs the service of all their resources to rehabilitate its lost position? If not, Arise, Awake, Unite and Work.



Welcoming Lord Linlithgow, Viceroy of India at Darbhanga Station

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Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
with Lord Willingdon, Viceroy of India, in Darbhanga, 1935

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
with Lord Willingdon, Viceroy of India, in Darbhanga, 1935

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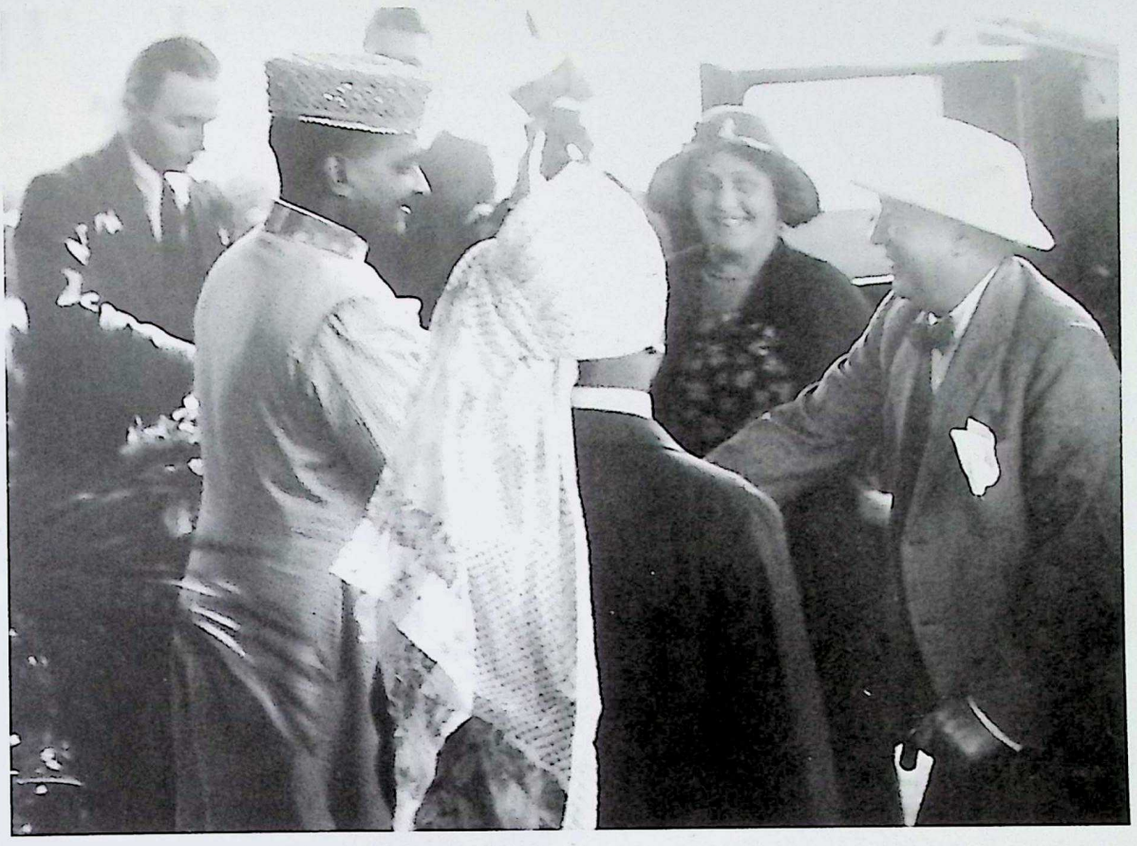
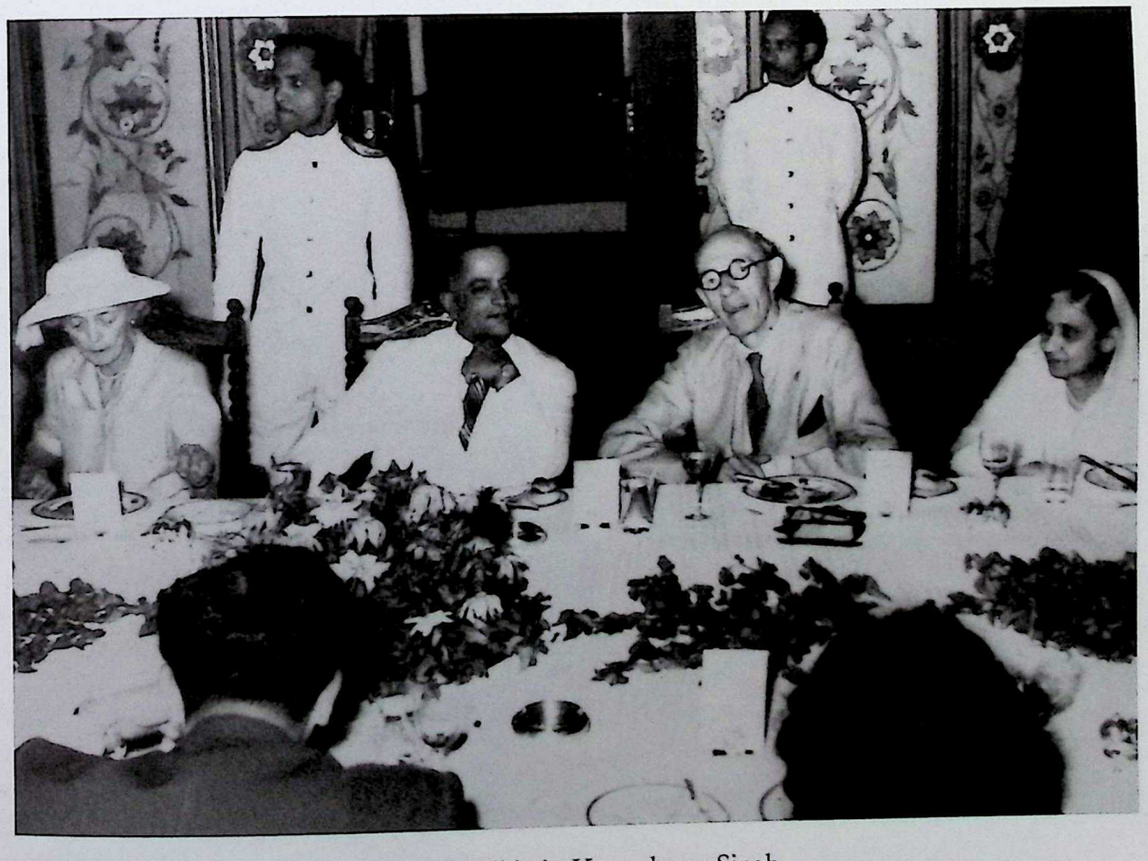


Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
with Lord Sifton, Governor of Bihar, in Darbhanga, 1932



Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh
with Lord Stewart

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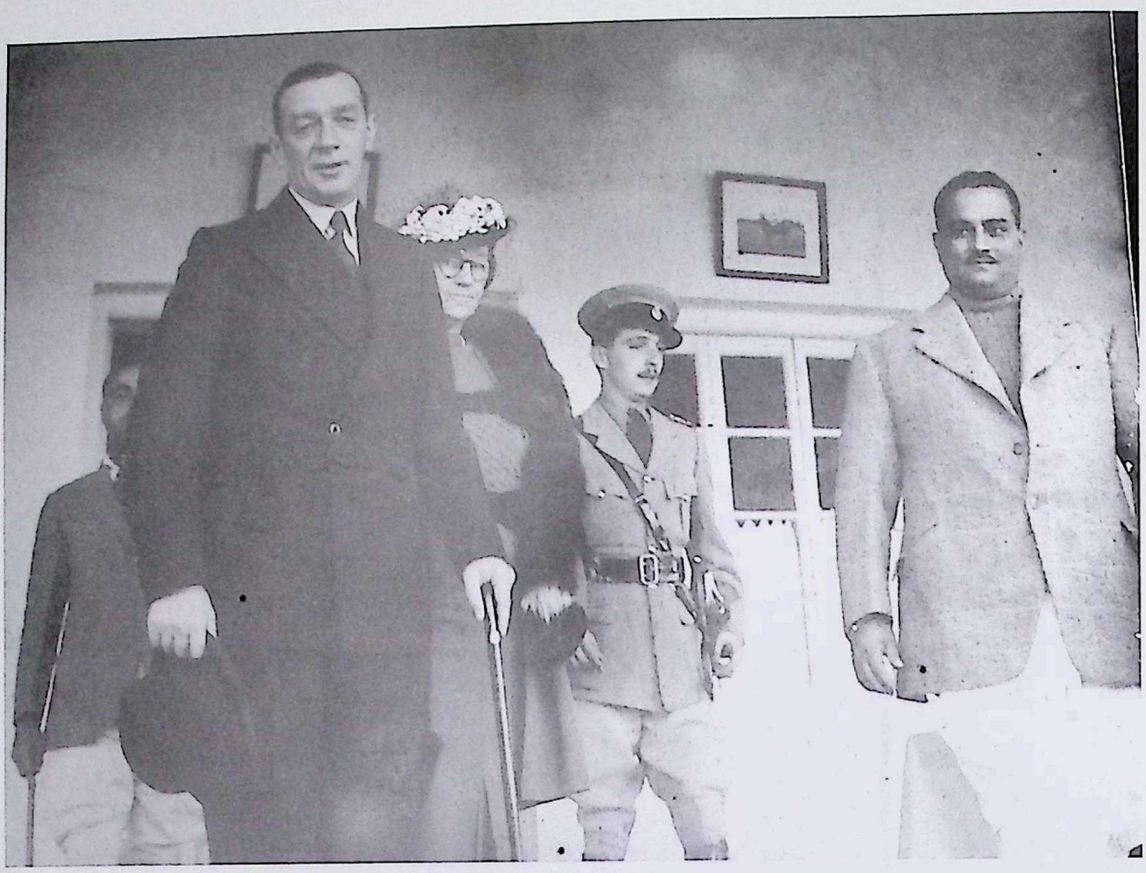

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
with Lord Irwin, Viceroy of India, 1930-31

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
with Lord Willingdon, Viceroy of India, in Darbhanga, 1935

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Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
with Lord Wavell, Viceroy of India, in Darbhanga, 1945

Lord Sifton at Darbhanga

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Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
with Lord Mountbatten, Viceroy of India, 1947

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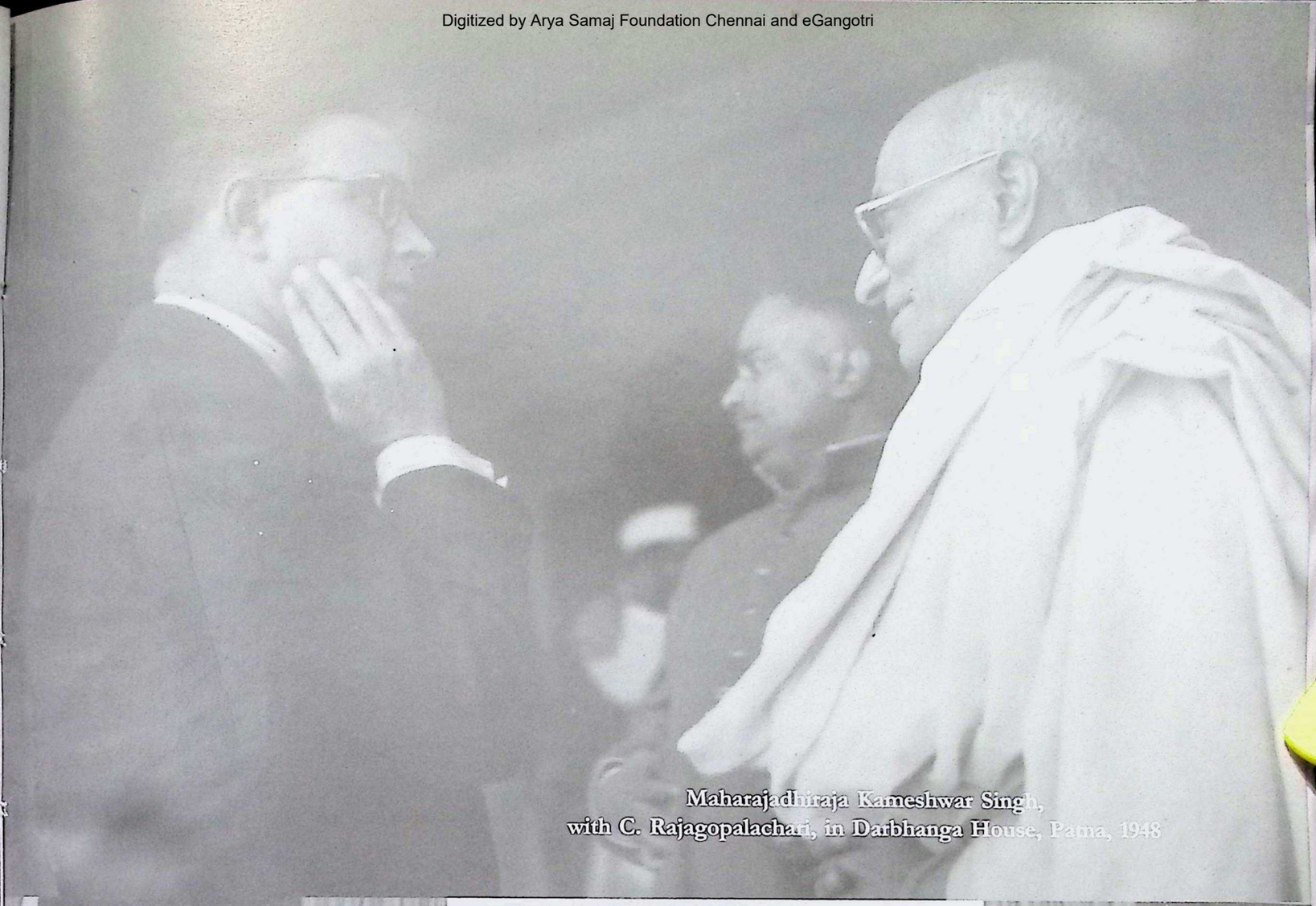

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh,
with C. Rajagopalachari, in Darbhanga House, Patna, 1948

Maharajadhiraja
Kameshwar Singh,
with Dr. Rajendra Prasad,
in Darbhanga House, Patna

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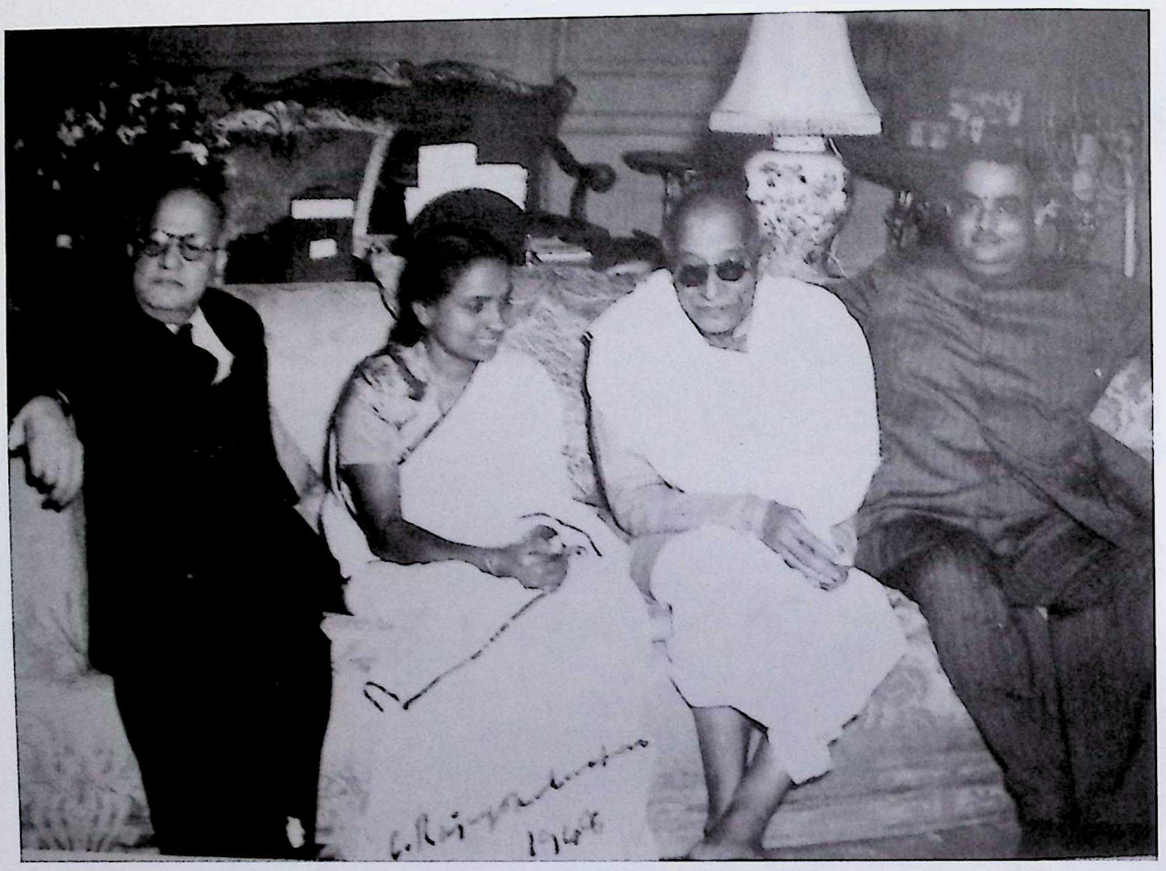

Regarding the identities of the persons in this photograph, Hon'ble Sri Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Governor of West Bengal, wrote the following to Dr. Surendra Gopal, Member of the Board of Trustees of Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh Kalyani Foundation.

...Editor

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Raj Bhawan
Kolkata 700 062

5.11.2007

Dear Dr. Surendra Gopal,

It is good to hear from you.

I am glad that an album of photographs of the Estate of Darbhanga is being proposed. I am even more glad to see your interest in detailed textual accompaniments in the photographs.

I am afraid I am not able to identify the lady sitting to the right of Rajaji. But the gentleman sitting further to her right is Sir V. T. Krishnamachari, ICS, Diwan of Baroda (1927-1944) an later Deputy Chairman of the Union Planning Commission (1953-1960).

Going by the type of sari the lady is wearing, perhaps she may belong to the royal family of Travancore. But that is only a guess. You could check with the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Kerala.

Needless to say you would have noted that the photograph belongs to the period when Rajaji was Governor General of India, the venue being the Government House (now Rashtrapati Bhawan), New Delhi.

With Regards
Yours Sincerely,

Gopal Krishna Gandhi

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SPEECH OF THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF DARBHANGA ON "SUGAR-CANE BILL" IN THE COUNCIL OF STATE DELIVERED ON THE 26TH APRIL, 1934, AT NEW DELHI.

"SUGAR-CANE BILL"

Sir,

As one, who is not only an owner of sugarmills but also a landlord, the bulk of whose tenants cultivate cane, and who himself grows canes extensively, I fully appreciate the motive with which the Government have brought forward this piece of legislation. I whole-heartedly support the idea that the benefit of protection granted to the sugar industry should be equitably distributed between the producers of sugar and the growers of sugar-cane, because it is mainly on the latter class that the expansion of sugar industry depends. They must be kept happy and contended.

But, Sir, I think that this Bill will not bring about the desired result, at least in the part of the country with which I am most concerned, viz., North Bihar. With your permission, Sir, I propose to examine the provisions of this Bill at this stage of the debate, in order to explain to the House the grounds of my apprehensions and I find to my great satisfaction that the views that I have formed as a result of my day-to-day dealings in this sphere, are very much in line with those expressed by the able representative of the Government of Bihar and Orissa (Mr. H.C.Prior) in the Sugar Conference held at Simla, in July, last year.

But before I do so, I want the House to consider what is one of the potent causes of the payment of an inadequate price to the cane-growers by the factories. Sugar-cane, being, in the words of the Tariff Board, "one remaining crop on which the cultivator relies for his cash requirements", has attracted the attention of the cultivators in general. The sugarmills take time to start work and it has been our experience that in spite of the rapid development of factories the supply of cane is much in excess of the demand. This is generally the case during a large part of the cane-crushing period. The result is that growers, who are anxious for the quick sale of their canes, enter into competition and cut down their prices. The prices given to them by the factories, so long as they are higher than what they expect to get from GUR, attract them; and we have so far found that the prices paid by the sugar factories are such, as not to make them think of utilising their canes in any other way than selling them to factories. Sir, what has been stated by Mr.Prior in the Conference, I have mentioned, is the correct account of the condition of things in my province. He said : "A fair price was generally paid for the cane and it seems likely that in North Bihar the ordinary rules of supply and demand will result in a fair price being paid in future". Sir, I agree with the Bihar and Orissa Government that it would be impracticable to enforce by legislation the payment of any such minimum price.

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I have read carefully clause 3 of the Bill which deals with the subject, and the more clearly I have tried to visualise the situation it will create, the greater became my apprehensions regarding the misuse of the legislation. Sir, from the very nature of things there are bound to be middlemen between the factory authorities and the cane-growers. They may be the mill employees or the licencees of the Government. How can any one check the corruption when in view of the overproduction and competition among the growers themselves the cultivators are paid less than the minimum, by middlemen concerned? The aggrieved party in such cases will be the growers. But they will be happy to sell the produce at a price lower than the prescribed minimum. Who will then come forward to set the law in motion? There will be endless trouble and harassment in the matter of bringing the culprit to book in cases where the law about the minimum price has been violated and the agriculturists will seldom take recourse to it. The only way to ensure the payment of the minimum price to the growers is to establish full co-operation between the cultivators and the factories; but if there is co-operation then the need for fixing minimum price by legislation will go.

Then again, how will the price be regulated in an area where, like me, the mill-owner himself possesses extensive private farms under sugar-cane cultivation? Will there be a licenced person for that area also? If so, what will be his functions? I suppose there will be none of the sort. If there will be one, there is bound to be confusion and trouble. I would like the Government to consider this aspect of the question and let me have a satisfactory reply.

The other question that must engage the attention of the Government in this connection is the basis on which the minimum price has to be fixed. We know that canes vary in quality. Then there are fresh canes and dry canes. Will the margin of profit of the mill-owners be taken into consideration? Will ... the interests on investments, etc., of the factories be taken into consideration? Besides that, I know, Sir, how difficult it is to calculate the cost of production of sugar-canes. Conditions differ from farm to farm and from individual to individual and any estimate is bound to be arbitrary. Is the Government going to make periodical enquiries into all these matters? and if so, one wonders what amount it will cost the tax-payers and what element of uncertainty it will introduce in the minds of both the growers and manufacturers engaged in the sugar industry.

Now, Sir, there is another matter which makes me sceptic about the payment of minimum price to the cane-growers. In spite of this law, in spite of having licenced factories and contractors no one can prevent corruption which the existing situation encourages, although clause 5 of the Bill is deterrent. Suppose the contractor or the factory employee though paying less, takes a receipt from the vendor for the amount of price stipulated in the notification, how can anybody detect it? There are thousand and one ways of evading the penalty and as I have indicated before, so long as the economic and other factors

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induce the cultivators to sell their produce cheap, no law can succeed in ensuring them any definite return.

The other question that has also to be seriously considered in connection with this piece of legislation is the declaration of controlled areas. Sir, theoretically the plan may appear to be sound. Even in practice it may work well in certain provinces. But it will be quite unsuitable in my province. I would refer the Honourable Members to pages 56 and 57 of the proceedings of Sugar Conference at Simla. I endorse every word of the reported speech of Mr.Prior. I need not tire the House by quoting his speech at length because I take it that the Honourable Members who have taken an interest in this subject must have perused the blue-book with care. Mr.Prior has stated the proposals made for zoning and has shown that situated as Bihar is they are not only unsuitable but vexatious. I repeat what he had said, viz., that "if the Government is going to fix the size of zone it is then imposing on itself a very grave liability". Even a slight error of judgement on the part of the Government in this matter will put the sugar industry in my province under severe handicap. It must be remembered that "white sugar factories mostly exist in North Bihar and they take practically the whole output of cane in North Bihar and the ryots have given up to a large extent the manufacture of Gur except in areas where there are no factories"..... In this matter, Sir, the opinion of Col.Lees also supports the contention just put forward.

Here again, the Government will have to take into account cases in which the mill-owner owns big private farms in the vicinity of his mill and grows sugar-canes in them. They, I think, will have to be left out of the operation of this Act. Otherwise, I fear a lot of complications will arise and the growth of this industry will be retarded.

Coming to the sixth clause of the Bill, Sir, I find that unless the District Magistrate orders or initiates a prosecution no court shall take cognizance of the offence under section 5 of this Bill. I am unable to follow this provision of the legislation, and may I put a few simple questions to the Honourable Member in charge of this Bill? Will he be good enough to tell the House in detail as to what will be the basis on which the Magistrate will complain and what will be the method of his enquiry? Will the aggrieved ryot have to go to the Magistrate and file a petition that he has not been paid the minimum price or will the C.I.D. be expected to report the cases of the infringement of this law? Will there be a regular or a summary trial of such cases? Will the offence be brought under the Civil or Criminal Procedure Code or a special tribunal will be set up for the purpose? Will there be any right of appeal and if so, what will be the ultimate authority to decide the question? These are questions, Sir, that came up to my mind, while I was going through the Bill and it would help us to understand the position better if we are enlightened on these points. I have already submitted, Sir, that the problems of fixing of the minimum price as well as of the controlled areas are full of practical difficulties. But greater will be the difficulty of

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bringing the offender under this law to book. My apprehension is that when this Bill is put on the statute book the Provincial Governments will have to spend many anxious days and nights to adjust the provisions of the law to the special conditions prevailing in the area under their jurisdictions; and even then, it is doubtful whether they will succeed in harmonising the relationship between cane-growers and mill-owners. On the other hand, I fear that this piece of legislation will create more discord between these two sections and set back the progress which the sugar industry is making. So far as my province is concerned, Sir, I hope that the Government of Bihar and Orissa will consider the advisability of not even looking at the Bill for a considerable time and advise other measures for meeting the situation when any occasion arises. Even as it is, Sir, we are not free from difficulties.

In this connection, Sir, I may mention that people, with political ambitions, masquerading under thousand and one denominations, having no stake in the country, having little interest in land or industry, and who are themselves neither cane-growers nor sugar manufacturers, are out to foment trouble. Their main object in freely using their misguided tongue and pen is to create friction between the component parts of the agricultural interests, and gain irresponsible leadership of the section that is numerically strong. Such men have nothing to lose. They have everything to gain. In the past many such pseudo-leaders have sprung up and after being found out, after having caused immense hardships to poor ryots or after having cheaply bartered away the cause which they championed, have disappeared. The expansion of sugar industry has given them a fresh field to work for their self-aggrandisement and there is an influx of new-comers. They are going about telling the simple ryots, whose wish and care are centred round a few paternal acres that they possess, all sorts of disturbing tales regarding the ruthless exploitation of the capitalists and landlords. Hopes, which they know in the heart of their hearts they cannot fulfil, are freely given; and the poor ryots are worked up with these vain hopes to actions, the implications of which they do not understand. Thus, we hear so much of bogus associations formed for the alleged "protection" of ryots. In fact these associations work for their destruction, and the poor ryots realise it only when it is too late for them to mend. These parasites, these self-seekers and mischief mongers, who in most cases become the controllers of these associations, hypnotise the cane-growers by their crafty assurance and they without bestowing much thought meekly submit to their lead. These are the people from which the sugar industry needs protection and these are the people who are likely to make the application of this law in my province ruinous. These are the people who will, in order to gain their own vicious ends, make it impossible for the mill-owners and cane-growers to combine and co-operate for the furtherance of an industry beneficial alike to both of them. Sir, I venture to think that unless the industry is protected from this type of men, whose idle brains are devil's workshop, unless demonstration and propaganda are extensively carried on to impress upon the cultivators the interdependence of capital

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and labour in this industry, no law that may be enacted here can better the condition of the poor ryots at whose cost these pernicious adventurers make money and position for themselves. I think that the security of the industry lies not in the law that is going to be enacted but in the joint action of the cane-growers and the sugar manufacturers based on a common understanding regarding the improvement of their economic condition. Without such an understanding, I am afraid, there will be an endless strife between capital and labour, landlord and tenant and the laws to adjust the differences will be fruitless. As we stand at present, conditions are governed more by extraneous and spurious factors than by anything which has a firm root in the practical economy.

I hope, Sir, that both the Provincial and Central Governments will make a thorough investigation about the condition prevailing in the different parts of the country while making rules and granting exemptions under this Act. I believe that every section of the people concerned with this industry such as cane-growers, mill-owners, landlords and ryots, will be consulted before the rules are enforced and in view of the fact that unscrupulous agitators are busy in disrupting the economic life of the people care will be taken to protect both the ryots and the mill-owners from their baneful activities.

Before I resume my seat, I want to repeat once more that it is my firm conviction that for the province of Bihar and Orissa the application of this law is not necessary. It will not improve matters there; rather my apprehensions are that it may make them worse. In these circumstances I cannot support the Bill and even if the Bill is passed into law I trust that the Bihar and Orissa Governments will not give effect to it without further deliberation about its necessity and efficacy.

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26 May, 1934

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Kumar Sahib,

Thank you for your letter. I tried to get you on phone this morning but failed.

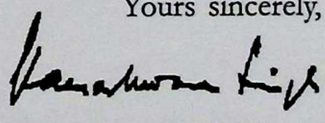
The recent declaration of Pt. Malviya has come as a complete surprise. I was under the impression that he was going to start a new party not at all concerned with the Congress in which he wanted the support of all those who do not see eye to eye with the programme of the Congress. But his recent declarations show that with the exception of the communal Award his Nationalist Party has the same aims and ideas as that of the Congress including the question of the severence of British connections. This only makes all the difference in the world.

The Government are also of definite opinion that Pt. Malviya's Nationalist Party is only a wing of the Congress. Besides a prominent member of the Government has written to me as follows :-

I understand that the candidature of Babu Ganganand Sinha and Babu Adit Prasad Singh will be supported by you and that they will represent your views. I hope it will be made clear to them that they cannot join hands with the Nationalist Party which is merely a wing of the Congress but that they must give their general support to the White Paper and the working of the reforms. I am writing this to you as I heard some rumour that they might be trying to strengthen their position by joining hands with the Nationalist Party. I think this would be great mistake."

This completely changes the entire situation and I shall be glad to hear from you what you propose to do in the matter.

Yours sincerely,



K. Singh

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Srinagar Purnea
28th May, 1934

Your Highness,

I went to see Malviyaji. We talked for about two hours and I shall give a detailed report of it to Your Highness when face to face. So far as the elections were concerned, shortly speaking, he seemed prepared to persuade Rajendra Babu to leave a few seats to Your Hinghness's nominees provided they would pledge in their election manifestoes to oppose the White paper and generally support all popular and national measures and Your Highness would give reciprocal help to the Congress candidates. He would not mind if Your Higness's nominees would say in their manifestoes they stood for "Dominion Status" as opposed to the complete Independence, and were against C.D.movement in any shape or form, as well as the socialist programme. I told him that it would be possible for Your Highness to consult him about details and if necessary give him names of candidates only in the beginning of June and he thought that till then it would not be very late. He also talked about the Hindi paper and other matters.None else, not even Raja Surajpura was present during our interview.

Trusting that Your Highness as well as the members of the Raj family are in the best of health, with my best regards.

I remain,
Ever Yours,

Sd/-
Ganganand

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STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL

Your Highness,

I had the pleasure of receiving Your Highness's kind note of the 26th ultimo, on the 28th in the afternoon. The decision was taken at Calcutta to make the Nationalist Party a party of Congressmen, I have been feeling worried. I was apprehending that trouble like the one mentioned by Your Highness would arise. That was why neither at Patna nor at Calcutta where I had been in response to Malviyajee's invitation I signified my assent to join the Party. At Patna, I had a long talk with Malviyajee. He realised my difficulties and offered to adopt me as a candidate under the special case clause.

I am enclosing for Your Highness's perusal copy of the statement issued by me when I had resigned my membership of the Assembly in obedience to the Congress mandate in January 1930. Your Highness perhaps knows that I sought re-election at the invitation of Malviyajee soon after my resignation and was returned unopposed. But when Malviyajee resigned, I followed suit. I am also enclosing a copy of the letter of resignation which I wrote to the Governor-General on that occasion. These two statements will make my position clear.

1. I am not for severence of British connections
2. I am a believer in working the legislature but
3. In the legislature, I must work with the progressive nationalist party which commands confidence in the Country.

I am not going to sign the congress Creed. I will not be concerned with what the Nationalist Party will decide to do outside the legislature, unless my work is in conformity with those of the tried leaders of the Country ..... Your Highness knows that ever since I have announced my candidature (and in the beginning there was no Nationalist Party) I have been telling people and winning their support on the following basis :-

1. Now that the Congress has decided to enter the legislature and take the oath of allegience to the Crown the talk of Complete Independence is all humbug,
2. The Congress condemns the White Paper; so do I; but
3. The Congress fights shy of condemning the Communal Award, whereas I shall openly and unequivocably condemn it;
4. I shall try for the repeal of repressive Laws and work on nationalistic lines as I have been doing;
5. I shall not allow any legislative interference in religious matters.

The Nationalist Party programme comes very much on the lines on which I have been

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working. Now when no stipulation is made in my case to sign the Congress Creed on what ground would I refuse its candidature?

The most important thing to be considered in this connection is the possibility of success. The bulk of the Hindu nationalists are stirred at Malviyajee's crusade against the Communal Award and the Congress has been clearly put in the wrong. But with the programme outlined by the Government Official it is impossible for any one howsoever big and able, he may be, to get returned from a non-Mohammedan constituency. People may not be practising what they feel, but they have secret sympathy and admiration for a nationlistic and progressive programme. Then contact with intelligentsia forms their opinion when they are not themselves competent to form it. In 1926 the Government officials had started similar campaign. Maharaja of Gidhour was defeated in his own zamindari, Kumar Ramanand was defeated in his own zamindari. These were as Zamindars by no means unpopular. The cause of their defeat was that they were thought servile to the Government. Maharaja of Hathuwa has also shared similar fate after spending about half a lac of rupees. To support the White Paper is to go behind moderates too. Even the liberals have unequivocally condemned it. Men of ability like Sapru and Jaykar stand discreditted in the country because of their general support to the White Paper and they dare not to seek election with that programme. In these circumstances it will be sheer waste of time, energy and money to contest the elections on the programme outlined by the Government official. Failure in that case is certain. The official has evidently taken no note of the popular opinion, otherwise he would not have suggested a method by which no body can get any success at the polls.

People very often feel by my work in the past that my political views are as advanced as those of Congressmen. They further feel that I will be a fighter for the people's cause and not servile to the Government. They are convinced of my honesty by what little sacrifice I made to serve the cause espoused by me. Even the Congressmen have nothing to say against my work in the Legislature. The only propaganda they carry against me is that I am a Raj-man and not a free agent of myself. My position is that although I have full support of the Raj, I am not set up by the Raj. The charge will disappear by my being adopted a Nationalist Party candidate. ....., a good many people ..... are veering around me because of the attitude taken up by me with respect to the Congress Working Committee decision on Communal Award. Malviyajee's name itself has got its attraction. It is just possible that the Congress may withdraw contest from two seats including mine in this province. Nothing however is certain.

But I fully appreciate the difficult predicament in which Your Highness is placed by the shortsightedness of the Government officials. For be it from me, to allow Your Highness's position to suffer for my sake. I have given anxious thoughts to the matter and uptil now the following course of action commends itself to me :-

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1. Your Highness should impress upon the Government that they should not expect anyone to succeed at the polls with their programme. The opinion in the country has gone far beyond that stage. A few thousands of rupees might be spent on either side but the success of the official candidate will remain assured in such a contest.
2. If they do not change their views, even then, and allow Your Highness to support me (a Nationalist Party candidate under the special clause) I would see whether I can get indirect support from Your Highness.
3. In the event of my failing to get that even, I shall have no other alternative than to retire from the contest.

I greatly value Your Highness's association with my candidature - not only because of Your Highness's vast resources but also because of the moral aspect of it. I can serve the country and be useful to Your Highness only if I am returned. But the facts are :-

a. that I cannot succeed even with Your Highness's support by taking a reactionary view.
b. that I shall have no place in politics for the rest of my life by acting contrary to the public opinion. Times are fast coming when the Government of the day will have the field and let the people fight their own battles. ..... of what use will a discreditted man be to Your Highness? It is only when a person carries the people with him that he can be of any use in public matters.
c. that without Your Highness's support direct or indirect, I shall not have either the heart or resources to fight the elections successfully. Had it not been so, I would have perhaps thought of seeking election from my old constituency where I had been working for so many years.

Thus in view of these considerations it appears to me that the proper course for me will be not to dissipate my time, energy and money in a useless - or rather harmful - electioneering but to utilise them to some better purpose at an opportune time.

This is the position as I see it after mixing with people I shall explain it fully and discuss it more thoroughly when I meet Your Highness. I shall not write to Pandit Malviya anything definitely about it till I have consulted Your Highness and settled the issues involved. I am proceeding with my canvassing on the lines on which started it.

I have suspicion that Sir Ganesh and R.K.Jha have worked up the Government officials to write the letter quoted by Your Highness to serve their own ends. But whatever that may be, the letter is there. Sarma and Karji of Sir Ganesh Dutt's Party have made a pact with Dt. Congress organisation at Darbhanga and they are doing its work through Congress and Kisaan Sabhas. So Sir Ganesh is active on all fronts to gain influence and discredit

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Your Highness's power and prestige. Politics is indeed a queer game and one has to keep watch on all sides. Your Highness has to keep both the Government and the people with you in order to battle him.

I am enclosing a pamphlet issued by certain persons (whom very few people know) on behalf of R.K.Jha and news cutting regarding the proposed Sanatanist Conference. A reply to R.K.Jha's pamphlet is under preparation and I shall send the same to Your Higness when ready. So R.K.Jha is not idle nor the Congress. My good Uncle openly canvass against me at the conference he is to preside. Very fine, I am not purturbed of it. Your Highness is my sheet anchor in the troubled sea of Sanatan Dharma. Pt. Malviya will bombard R.K.Jha's boats.

I am writing to Your Highness separately about the Indian Nation and the Mithila Mihir.

I remain,
Ever Yours,

Sd/-
Ganganand

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE
RANCHI

31st May 1934

My dear Sir Kameshwar,

I wrote to you on the 27th of May a brief acknowledgement of your letter of the 24th about the Darbhanga Improvement Trust. I have since then talked the matter over here in Ranchi and have decided to let the Reconstruction Department, which is in charge of Mr. W.B. Brett, take up the matter of an Improvement Trust Bill. Mr. Brett will be nominated to the Council for the September session to be incharge of the Bill and put it through.

I think you would probably like your proposal now to be published, and I am asking Mr. Brett to draft a communiqué which he will show you before issue.

I hope that unreasonable opposition will now disappear in view of the excellent opportunity provided by you for Darbhanga town to carry on a programme of progressive improvement. I hope your generous offer will be properly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

J. D. Sifton

The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja
Sir Kameshwar Singh, K.C.I.E., of Darbhanga
Darbhanga

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1, Middleton Street
Calcutta

17th August 1934

Your Highness,

I had the pleasure of receiving Your Highness's very kind letter of the 12th instant at Darbhanga on the 15th instant. I have arrived here this morning. Uptil now I have been able to devote only 17 days to my electioneering and a tremendous lot of work has to be done at Darbhanga and Saran. I know, I am in somewhat delirious stage so far as my election fever is concerned but I do not think I can help it.

I am sorry for Mohanji, both because he is sick and extravagant. I think that there is only one thing that can cure him of the latter, though there may be more than one way of curing him of the former, and that is to confine him in a village. He is too young yet to go to Delhi, Simla, Calcutta or any other place of attractions, specially in a condition in which he can have his own way. He has not written to me at all, so far. I presume it is due to his sickness.

I am extremely grateful to Your Highness for ordering the H.O. to make over Rs.1000/- to me. As the order has not reached the office by the time of my departure from Darbhanga, I shall have it on my return.

I am just back from Malviyaji's residence. There was an informal conference there to know the Bengal opinion. Prominent members of the late Mr.J.M.Sen Gupta's group had gathered there. They want that the membership of the Nationalist Party should be open only to those who would sign the Congress Creed, and thus confining the fight mainly within the Congress with a view to have the Working Committee resolution changed. Panditjee's own view was that even those who for one reason or the other did not sign the Congress Creed might be allowed to join the Party, although mere signing the Creed does not mean obligation to follow the Congress decision in toto. The matter will be discussed further tomorrow on the arrival of the Maharashtra leaders. I supported Panditjee's views.But in view of the Bengal opinion I do not know how matters will finally stand. There are practical advantages and disadvantages in both. Whatever happens one thing is certain and it is that an opposition will be organised against the official candidates of the Congress Parliamentary Board.

The Officer-in-charge of the Mahamandal has written a personal and confidential letter to me. A copy of it I am sending herewith for Your Highness's perusal. It will speak for itself. I had a talk with Jnana Babu today about it and he said Your Highness had imposed certain conditions and given certain time limit in connection with the grant and as Mahamandal did not accept these conditions in time, the whole matter fell through. Should I ask him to send the copies of the documents mentioned by him? I wait Your Highness's instruction regarding the reply to be given by me.

I remain,
Ever Yours,

Ganganand

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DARBHANGA HOUSE
SIMLA

The 20th August, 1934

My Dear Kumar Sahib,

Thank you for your letter and enclosures.

I will fix up the date for the meeting of the Advisory Board of the Indian Nation on my return to Darbhanga.

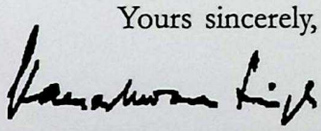
I shall be glad to know about further proceedings of Pandit Malviyaji's meeting at Calcutta.

I enclose herewith a copy of the letter that I have received from Mr.Sinha. Will you kindly see him and fix up things?.....

Dont allow the temperature of your election fever to get abnormal. Thank you very much for sending the speech.

I hope you are well.

Yours sincerely,



K. Singh

Kumar Ganganand Sinha, M.A.
Srinagar
Purnea, B.& O.

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The PALACE
DARBHANGA

The 17th October, 1934

My dear Kumar Sahib,

I have not heard how your election campaign is going on in Chapra, but I am sorry to see that very little is being done in this district. I do feel that you ought to spend more of your time here and organise it properly. With proper organisation you can do much here while even with a great deal of exertion the result may be uncertain at Chapra. I would therefore advise you to spend more of your time here and try to capture the majority of the votes. You can go to Chapra periodically to watch.

Cant you get one of your brothers to be in Chapra like Mohanji is here. You will then find that things will be more satisfactory.Please keep me informed of the progress.

I am going to Allahabad for a few days.

Yours sincerely,

K. Singh

Kumar Ganganand Singh, M.L.A.

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STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL

To His Highness

Mr.Sinha's defeat has been an eye-opener in more ways than one. Sambhoo Babu must have told Your Highness all about the happenings and we recount them simply to indicate what they imply.

Having failed to get the official support Rajandhari wanted to get the support of the entire Muslim block. But he could not succeed in it till the 14th and that was clear from the fact that three Muslim members filed their nomination papers. On the other hand among the Hindus neither Kailu Chaudhary nor Srikrishna Prasad filed his nomination paper, the former because of his illness and the latter on account of the adverse decision of the party. Among the Muslim candidates Mr.Hafeez was Sir Sultan Ahmad's man, Mr.Sagir was backed by Ahrar Party and Mr.Yunus. From the beginning Mr.Yunus inclined to support Rajandhari, and the Ahrar Party through Mr.Aziz was in favour of Mr.Sinha. Sir Sultan Ahmad was on the fence. Both the ministers were manoeuvering to get the support of the entire Muslim block for Rajandhari because otherwise he had no chance. The Muslim minister had a dinner party on the 14th night at which he discussed the situation. Mr.Sagir could not find any Hindu in Mr.Sinha's party to sign his nomination paper and that may have given him cause for offence. He offered to withdraw from the contest in case Mr.Hafeez withdrew and Mr.Hafeez was, as the report goes, assured that if the entire body of Muslim members voted he would be made the Chairman of the Patna Distt. Board in which Rajandhari's party was in the majority. Both the ministers, it is understood, stood surity for getting Mr.Hafeez to be the Chairman and it was decided at 1.30 p.m. the 15th that the Muslim members would vote en block for Rajandhari in case Yahiya was eliminated. Sir Sultan Ahmad was one of the arbitrators in the meeting. The cry was raised that a Muslim was assured of at least the Chairmanship of a District Board failing the Presidentship by allying with Rajandhari, whereas by allying with Mr.Sinha was going to get nothing. The matter was kept a secret till the time of the voting. The Raja of Kanika was in need of Sir Ganesh Dutt's support in the matter of nomination to get his son elected as the Chairman of his District Board in Orissa and had it not been for the attitude taken up by H.E. and Mr.Whitty it is learnt that the officials too would not have supported Mr.Sinha, the entire Indian element of the Governor's cabinet being of one mind in this respect. But that attempt did not succeed and the officers were allowed absolutely free voting. In the first count Mr. Sinha got 40 votes, Rajandhari 35 and Yahiya 23, Yahiya's 23 votes were made up of 3 officials 4 Hindus 16 Mahommedans. Out of these 15 Mahommedans voted for Rajandhari making the total 50 and 3 officials, 4 Hindus and 1Mahomedan (Mr.Aziz of Ahrar Party) voted for Mr.Sinha making the total 48. If the Ahrar party's seven would have voted en block for Mr.Sinha as was almost certain till 14th he would have got 54

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votes. The entire Bhumihar community including Raja Amawan or Rajandhari and Bishundeo were seen actively canvassing.

Thus it is the minister's power of nomination and distribution of offices that had the better of ability and merit. Whatever vote Mr.Sinha got was because he was considered the ablest of the candidates.

Today Sir Ganesh has emerged out of the conflict as a master tactician (though unscruplous) and strongest man in the Province. Mr.Sinha's public career has come almost to an end. The groupings organized on communal lines have received a fresh and very vigorous impetus and it is thought that no one howsoever able and big he may be can exert any influence until he commands a substantial following from top to bottom in elected bodies, and work as a compact body. The existence of B.U.P. is imperilled. The group of Sir Ganesh having known its strength can think of working in it only when he can dominate it and the Muslims will co-operate simply to get whatever advantage they can from the party. We fear that it will be impressed upon the Government that their security lies in allying with Sir Ganesh and if things are allowed to go on as they are he is bound to be the Chief Minister in the new constitution. The question that is upper most in our mind is what we should do? Last night we had an informal discussion with Rai Bahadur Harihar Prasad Singh, Rai Bahadur Shyamnandan Sahay, Kumar Saheb of Surajpura (Raja Saheb's brother) and we felt that it is absolutely necessary that the talk about our future line of action should be resumed before Your Highness. The issues are :-

1. Should B.U.P. continue as it is or not?
2. If it should continue, How?
3. If it should not, what step it should take? how should it function?

The talk can conveniently take place at Patna alone because the Government will be within easy reach here, should necessity arise. But if there be no possibility of Your Highness coming to Patna in near future the Raja Saheb of Surajpura is desirous of meeting at any time and place convenient to Your Highness.

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THE PALACE,
DARBHANGA

The 9th February, 1937

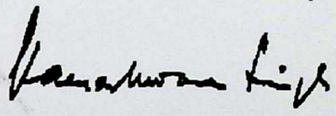
Dear Sir,

I am very thankful to my supporters for returning me to the Council of State by such a large majority.

Now that I am going in a few days to take my seat in the House as your representative, I would like to assure you that I shall try to serve my country and safeguard the interests of my province as best as I can, and prove myself worthy of the confidence which my constituency has reposed in me.

I shall very much appreciate your writing to me about matters of public importance pertaining to the Central Legislature. They will always receive my careful attention.

Yours truly,



K. Singh

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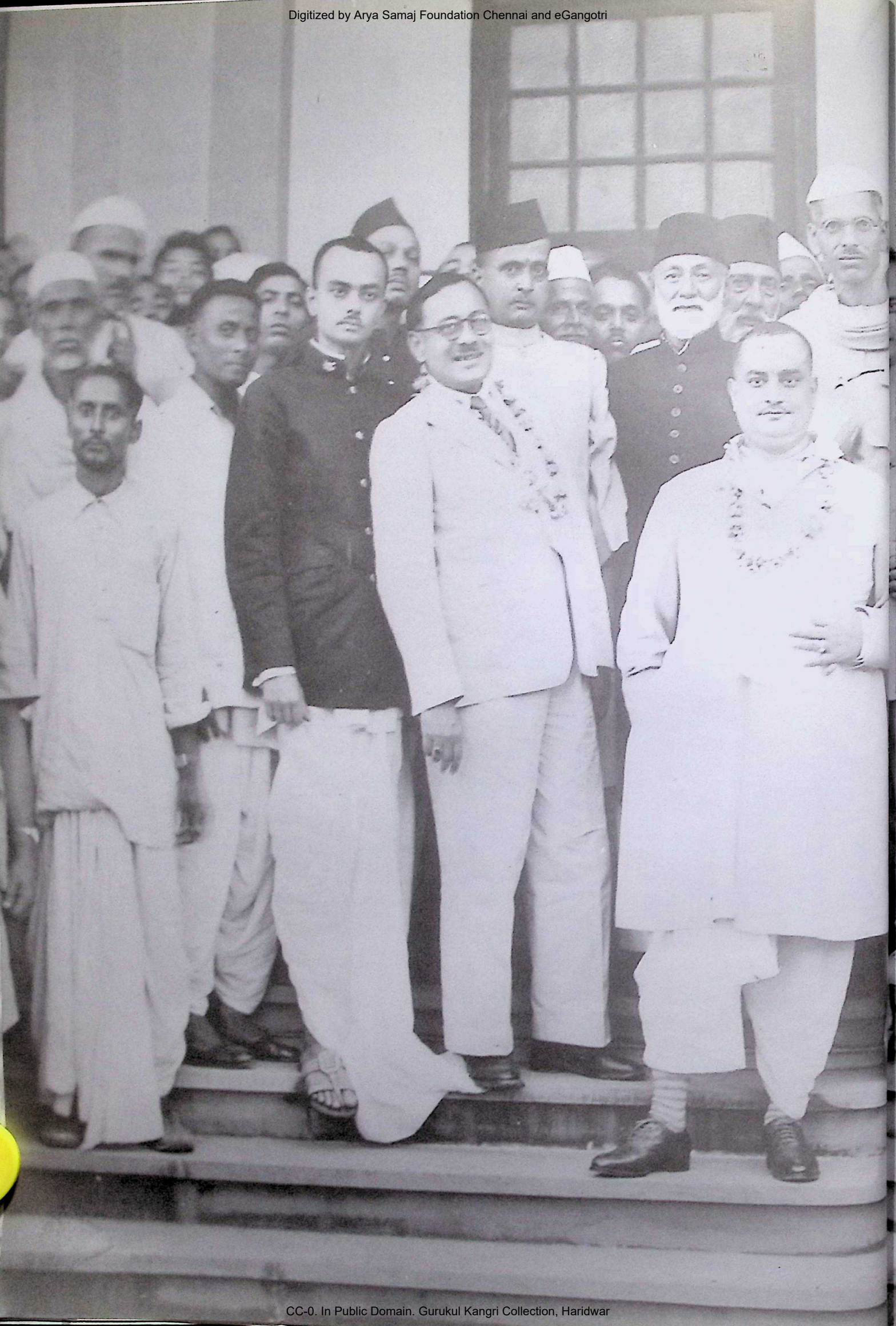

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DISCUSSION OF THE GENERAL BUDGET

1941-42

5th March, 1941

The Honourable Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwar Singh

Of Darbhanga

(Bihar : Non-Mohammedan) :

Mr. President, more than once I have made it clear what my attitude is towards war measures, and I shall be doing so once again when I say that I consider no sacrifice too great for vindicating the honour of my King and Country. The present war is a deadly struggle between diametrically opposite forces for having the upper hand to shape the future of mankind. It is going to decide whether civilization or barbarism, whether the idea of free growth of nations or that of racial domination, whether humanity or brute force is to predominate in the world to come. I have no doubt whatsoever that the cause championed by the British Empire will ultimately triumph, but at the same time I am convinced that the struggle will be a long one and it will put every man and woman of the present generation to the severest test. I am sure that, generally speaking, the whole of India wishes that Britain may win the war and feels more or less confident that she will win the war. Had it not been so, there would not have been so much agitation about the status of this country, so many claims and counterclaims to the position and privileges of this community and so much fuss about the conditions on which this section or that will join in war efforts. All these presuppose that it will be Britain with whom India shall have ultimately to settle her accounts and the hour of her need is the best time to strike the bargain. This is my reading of the situation and I shall be lacking in candour if I do not say with due respect that to me and to the people of my way of thinking the methods employed by parties that dominate the political field to-day are highly improper. Issues much larger than those put forward by the leaders of these political parties demand immediate solution by the world. They are talking of definition of their rights in a property when the property itself is in the danger of being snatched away from one who claims to hold it on trust. They are disputing the rights of the trustee when an outsider claims by the right of his might the absolute ownership of the trust property. They are arguing about unfulfilled promises when the question is whether they will remain in a condition to have what they have got. In my opinion they should have kept these considerations aside till the world becomes free from the Nazi, the Fascist and, I hope, also the Bolshevist menace, for Britain needs our fullest support in putting an end to them and our non-co-operation at this juncture amounts to our helping those whose defeat we earnestly desire - nay, whose defeat some of us have taken for granted. So far, therefore, as the present

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war is concerned, our duty is clear and that is to forget our differences with the British Government for the time being and stand by it loyally and steadfastly, as other units of the British Empire have done, in the life and death struggle that is shaking the world.

Unimaginativeness of Government - Sir, but I cannot help thinking that the Government has failed to produce the war atmosphere. It is true that taxation is mounting up and donations to War Funds are coming in but there is a lack of that feeling of making the cause one's own which is so very essential for the success of a struggle such as this. The non-officials who finance the war do not count at all. They have no position or status. As a result of this attitude people in general do not realize that it is their own battle that they are fighting. There is a feeling of distrust, and I am afraid it is growing. The officials feel that everything is done by them and it will be dangerous to transfer any real responsibility to the non-officials irrespective of their attitude towards the war. The political parties, we know, have made no secret of their intentions. They are in a bargaining spirit and I do not minimize the difficulties of Government in striking a bargain at a time like this. But there are other people who have pledged their unconditional support to Government in their war efforts and I wonder why they are treated with such cold neglect. The question of expansion of Viceroy's Executive Council and the constitution of the War Board was shelved on account of the failure of the Congress and the Muslim League Parties to come to a working arrangement. After all, there are quite a number of eminent men in India not belonging to these plitical parties who can render valuable services and guide the affairs of their country during these troublesome times and yet they are not considered fit even to be consulted. They are not allowed to share the responsibilities for the defence of their country. They are expected to put forth money, men and resources but are denied any voice in the utilization of it. It looks that there is no other element in India in the eyes of the powers that be except the Congress and the Muslim League and when there is no harmony in them British element alone can replace them. If such a policy is going to be pursued my apprehension is that even most of those who consider it to be a patriotic act to help Britain to win the war will lose all interest. What interest can they have in the matter when they get the idea that those whom they support can only humiliate them? I hope, however, that Government will not commit the blunder of alienating the sympathy and support of those who are standing by it even at the risk of being misuderstood, and act in such a manner as may give the impression that friendship is reciprocated, support is appreciated and the collaborators in this hazardous enterprise have free and equal status. It is true that War Committees have been formed throughout India and they are doing good work. But the scope of their activities is so limited, the nature of their work is so one-sided, and the prospect before them is so hazy that one would really marvel at what they have been able to do.

What message has Secretary of State or His Excellency the Viceroy given to the 400

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million people of this country except that they are naughty children and unless they cease quarrelling they cannot have any place in the household? Is that the way to ward off aggression? This simply shows mutual distrust and unless there is the feeling that the home is theirs and shall be theirs if they drive out the aggressor how can they be expected to take any interest in protecting it? The Prime Minister unhappily has chosen to be discreetly silent about us. We are left to guess things for ourselves and I think that it is the deep-rooted traditional loyalty of Indians to the Throne and person of the King-Emperor that alone is responsible for the response this country has given.

Sir, if the Governments both in England and in this country would have been practical and imaginative Hitler would never have dared to cause the catastrophe. The period between 1918 and 1938 was wasted. So far as India was concerned distrust between the Britishers and the Indians continued, disunion between various elements in Indian life was fostered by the Government of India Act of 1935 and numerous barriers were put in the way of her progress towards self-sufficiency. Even when the war is on, it is surprising that offers of help are sometimes refused and acts are done by which people are led to think that India is deliberately prevented from occupying the position of equality with other countries. While sinews of war are provided by non-official India it is the official India and that too predominantly of the British variety which decide as to how they should be utilized. When at a time like the level of taxation is steadily rising and utmost economy should have been effected in administration, extravagances are clearly visible and the criticisms of the representatives of the taxpayers do not seem to have any effect on Government.

The new world order - We are told of a new world order! What is that world order going to be? What will be the position of those who are helping Britain to win the war in that world order? It has been demonstrated that the order which emerged out of a world war in 1918 was disorder of the worst type. Forces were let loose on earth which delighted in the destruction of all those ideals for which people used to lay down their lives in the past. New ideals sprung up but equipments to defend those ideals were wanting. Human weaknesses manifested themselves. The remedies prescribed were worse than the disease. The institutions that arose on the ashes of the old were of much inferior kind and the result has been the devil's dance which we witness to-day. The question that we have to ask to-day is whether all this suffering and sacrifice will give us the wisdom to see things in their true perspective and the strength to act with courage and determination for lasting peace and prosperity, or they will all go in vain? As we are primarily concerned with our own country, I crave the indulgence of the House to permit me to recapitulate some of the events that the history of our country has recorded and discuss this important question in the light of such events.

There have been three main conquerors of the territory called to-day by the name of

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India. They were the Aryans who held sway for thousands of years - we do not know yet whether their predecessors were conquerors or original settlers - the Mohammedans, who ruled a large part of the country for nearly 800 years and the British, who in one shape or the other are guiding our political destiny for over a century and a half. The difference between the extent of the conquests of these three varieties of conquerors has been that the first was able to fulfil its mission, the second tried but failed and the third has found conquest by the first too complex to meddle with in a direct manner. Long subjection of political nature has weakened the vitality of the body brought into being by the most successful of these conquerors; but the spirit still pervades the land and their mssion has the same appeal to the hearts of mankind as it had when it was taken up. Diverse religious dogmas and practices, clash of cultural peculiarities, social vagaries and political accidents do not touch the fringe of the mighty achievements of these redoubtable conquerors. If we have not to-day the power of assimilation and the energy for evolution it is simply due to the fact that our long political subjection makes it difficult for us to develop in the line which is most congenial to us. When the Mohammedan conquerors came they found that they could not rule India without the co-operation of the people of this country and the vast majority of them were Hindus. Campaign of conversion and policy of preference to Mohhamedans did not show quick results. Reaction was great. When the Hindus were given positions of trust and honour and attempt was made for the natural fusion of culture the Mohamedan power was at its zenith. It declined with the reversion of the policy and the country knew no peace till by her historic Proclamation Her late Imperial Majesty Queen Victoria of blessed memory assured the people of this country that Her Majesty's subjects, of whatever race or creed they may be, will be freely and impartially admitted to offices in Her Majesty's service ..... In the same Proclamation the great Queen assured the Indians that they would be treated in the same way as other subjects of Her Majesty were treated and perfect neutrality will be maintained in religious matters. The gracious message of Her Majesty did its work. It allayed the highly stung feelings of the Indian people at that time. In the reigns that followed attempts were made towards the fusion of Eastern and Western culture by peaceful means. But time has shown that those responsible for carrying out her instructions have, while paying lip homage to them and willy-nilly succumbing to the pressure of public opinion, tried to kill the spirit in which the message was given. The present unrest and desperation on the part of the Indian public are due to the narrow-mindedness of those who have shaped the trend of British administration in India and I have already said they never understood India. The system of their administration is too mechanical to allow them to know the country and its people. And yet, they have all along thought that they know much more about Indians than Indians themselves and had it not been for them we would have been worse than savages and the country would have known nothing but anarchy. It is true that when they established a hold on this country, this country was engaged in internecine

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warfare. The weakening of the central political authority was the chief cause of that state of affairs. But which country with the size and population of India has been immune from occasional upheavals of that kind? It is true that with tact, diplomacy, ability, character and good luck, the servants of the East India Company managed to establish Indo-British relationship which if fostered in the right spirit would have and can even now produce marvellous results; but it is equally true that by their lack of imagination, lack of trust and false notion about Indians the British administrators from the very beginning poisoned the fountain of a relationship which could have otherwise been very sweet.

Sir, Indians were never given free hand to evolve their own system of administration. They were made to believe partly by the western mode of thought which English education has bred ....., partly by the contact which science has established between different parts of the world and partly by the domination of Western powers that the best thing to do was to faithfully copy the British system of government. But events have proved that even the Britishers are not prepared to allow India to do so. If that would not have been the case, there would have been no communal electorates, no weightages and no dictation from Whitehall. They are considered necessary because India has not moved along the path of Britain and she has problems peculiar to her own. Events have also proved that such a patched up constitutional structure will not suit this country. It will tear her up in bits and destroy her integrity. She has to build up her constitutional structure on her own traditional foundation in accordance with her own needs. While I do not minimize the importance and utility of Indo-British connection I want it like all others in my country on the basis of free will and equality. India cannot be happy unless she is the mistress in her own household in which every child is treated with justice, fairness and love according to position, development and aptitude and is given the necessary protection from molestation of any kind, violent or non-violent. The British Parliament which has shaped the destiny of this country during the last century has never understood this country. It has no doubt maintained internal tranquillity to an appreciable degree but it has sapped the vitality of the country and prevented its natural growth. It is responsible for killing that unity in diversity which was the special feature of Indian life and culture. It has magnified diversity and killed the spirit which made India great. We are governed to-day by head and not by heart as we used to be. It is not love, it is not social duties and obligations, it is not the fear of God but it is the definition of legal rights that regulates our conduct to-day. We have drifted far apart from the shore with which we were familiar for such a long time and in the mid-ocean we are overtaken by a mighty storm and do not know what the future has in store for us. We shall have to lift ourselves to the higher plane of spirituality as Aryans had done to achieve the unity we desire and with that background can we evolve our political constitution by harmonizing our differences basing it on justice and security and cementing them with territorial patriotism. Although uniformity is not

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the essential feature of the scheme, it will necessitate well planned division of work in the service of our country so that every man and woman of this land without being divested of his or her possessions may develop without any hindrance and fully contribute according to his or her ability to the well-being and progress of India.

I wish to see the day when the Britishers will be no longer distrusted or accused of breaking their pledges, when imperialism will be the symbol of the system of collective security and not taken to be a system of exploitation, when the ultimate aim of democracy will not be dictatorship but real freedom and security and when India will in a real sense be a free and equal partner in the Empire of the Commonwealth of Nations.

It is due to the hope of the fulfilment of this wish and the sense of duty towards our beloved Sovereign that I grudge no sacrifice and my support to the taxation measures should be considered purely in this light.

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THE SPEECH OF THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF DARBHANGA IN THE COUNCIL OF STATE, ON THE FOOD DEBATE, ON 20TH NOVEMBER, 1943.

Sir,

The food situation which is causing so much misery, so much stir and so much wordy warfare in this country today has originated less from the faults of nature than from the faults of man.

People connected with agriculture were never seriously consulted and even when they were consulted, proper attention was not paid to what they said. To solve the problem of Food in India they thought it proper to find a man whose chief qualification was his complete ignorance of Indian conditions. His knowledge was derived from files containing faulty information received from the Provincial Governments. The Government always do that. They look to the West and not to this country for curing India's ills, although past experience should have made it clear to them that it is not the right thing to do. Most of the present troubles of the Governments in India are due to the fact that they are too rash in transplanting Western ideas, Western methods, Western systems on the Indian soil. We have no doubt assimilated some of them. But our growth has been stunted. Our loss is greater than our gain. If only we had been allowed to grow naturally, this country would not have looked as barren as it looks today. We would have been a powerful ally of Britain and not a helpless critic. Let the Government cease to un-Indianise India and help her to revive her old indigenous institutions; and she will find that her troubles are over. So long as they will use their power and position to shape her according to the alien standards they will be disappointed and will also disappoint India. No doubt, the Member in charge of the Department when the crisis arose happened to be an Indian and a native of the province which was affected most. But had he relied on his own knowledge of things - howsoever out of touch he might have been then with the current events - and not allowed his Secretary to experiment with unsuitable remedies things would not have come to such a pass, for, I cannot believe that any Indian, be he a prince or a peasant, would show such a lack of understanding of Indian conditions as has been done by the Food Department .....

The Government were indeed unprepared for this eventuality. All seem to be controllable despite the fall of Burma and natural conditions so greatly vary that the same remedy cannot be applicable to calamities that befell Bengal. But when the groans of dying men, women and children and wails of starving millions ..... the sky it was all hustle and bustle. Summoning of experts, Food Conferences, Food Committees, debates, took place one by one. In their hurry, however, they forgot to take advantage of the

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agencies that already existed in the country and embarked on experiments of Western methods to deal with the problem. I need not repeat ..... what has been done so far. The Hon'ble members know it already. In one word, their experiments have been signal failures.

Much attention seems to have been paid to Calcutta and urban areas. Traders have been employed as Government agents and mills have been controlled to meet the needs of the urban population. The object has still to be achieved. The rural area (where foodstuff is produced) has, I am afraid, not received the attention it deserves. Instead of supplying food to the deficit rural area, food was indiscriminately collected from villages with the result that misery overtook both the urban and the rural population. What did they do in the rural areas to relieve the distress? Did they take advantage of the village Panchayats? Did they take advantage of the administrative machinery of the landlords which, as their own old records would show, played such a conspicuous part during the last famine of Bengal in 1896-97.

If the Government would look to the minutes of the Lieutenant - Government of Bengal of those days and to the Final Resolution of the Government of Bengal on the Femine of 1896-97 they would fully know what part the administrative machinery of the landlords played at the time of stress. My uncle, the then Maharaja of Darbhanga, figures prominently in these despatches. He was allowed to relieve the Government of the care of a large tract of the country and this is what His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal has recorded in his minute about his work :-

"..... I inspected several of the Raj works and was struck by the completeness of organization, and intimate personal knowledge of the circumstances of the villages possessed by the staff ....."

The nature of the organizations of landlords as compared to those of the Government has been further emphasized in the Resolution of the Government of Bengal on the Famine of 1896-97. In Chapter X of the Resolution it is stated, again in relation to my uncle :-

" ..... The scheme of relief organized by the Maharaja in Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur consisted in the offer of labour on works on a system of piece work at rates somewhat above normal, to compensate for the dearness of grains, and giving of gratuitous relief on very much the same lines as Government with the difference ('mark the word') that the Raj enjoyed the advantage of a village staff already on the spot, who possessed a personal acquaintance with the needs of the villagers and over whom they had various means of control ....."

Personal touch and continuity of relationship are indeed the distinguishing features of the organization of landlords and it is with a view to draw the attention of the Government to this point and not to blow my own trumpet that I have read these extracts.

Sir, in spite of the fact that successive Governments have by emphasizing differences and making laws calculated to foster class conflict, by heavy taxation and various other

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ways systematically reduced the capacity of the landlords to do good to the public, they have, thank God, not yet succeeded in uprooting it. The landlords have still got the administrative machinery which keeps them in close and direct touch with the cultivators. For generations they have mutually shared the joys and sorrows and let me hope they will ever continue to do so. Both in the matter of procurement and distribution these indigenous agencies would be much more efficient than the Government officials who by reason of their short-lived association with the people of the particular area in which they are placed are unmindful of the consequences. There is yet another aspect of the question which was very lucidly expressed by Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the Lieutienant-Governor of Bengal at a Durbar held at Belvedere on the 8th December, 1896. He said :-

" I specially commend to your attention the small people of respectable standing who cannot dig and are ashamed to beg - the poorer 'bhadralog'. For them, let the tact and goodwill of their wealthier fellow countrymen find suitable means of succour. The Government does not repudiate its own obligation to keep all classes of its subject alive. But ('mark the words') its methods are necessarily rough and indiscriminating and into some classes of cases it is hardly seemly for it to pry."

The Government of today have frozen all these considerations and experiences. They look to the landlords only when they are in search of some scapegoat, and perhaps the latest instance of it is found in the debates of this very House. The Food Secretary when he initiated the debate on Food situation in this House on the 12th August last observed:-

"It is that perhaps the big zemindars and landowners of this country have not appreciated the extent to which it has been put in their power to assist India in her Food difficulties today. They have not perhaps realized the full significance of the fact that the small cultivator is prone to do what the bigger man does. If the bigger man sells his stocks, the small man would be inclined to do the same. If the bigger man hoards his stocks for a higher price so will the little man. As regards the landowner or zemindar who takes action to dissuade the cultivator from surrendering his surplus, I beg to be excused from making comment : I feel as a soldier I have not requisite degree of delicacy of expression.

In this first stage of physical control, the big landowners and zamindars have a responsibility and an obligation. Speaking in my personal capacity, I hope the future will show a better leadership than has been apparent in the last six months I have been in the Food Department."

Sir, I am not aware of any such instance. If a landlord advised the cultivators to keep enough for their own needs and for the needs of their neighbours, he, in my opinion, did not do anything wrong. After all what is really a marketable surplus? The cultivator has to pay agricultural labour in kind, advance loan of grain to his neighbour, give charities to the needy besides meeting the needs of his family. A landlord in the permanently settled area generally has very little land which he cultivates himself. Bulk of his land is settled on cash rent basis with his tenants. Therefore he has to depend more upon the market than on his own land. If he has the produce of his own land in such a quantity than he can spare after meeting the requirements of his family the first claimants on such produce are

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his employees and their family. Any thing beyond these essential requirements can be called a marketable surplus in the proper sense of the term.

In my own province the period of 'control' was obnoxious owing to the confused, contradictory, unco-ordinated, unimaginative and dilatory action of the various officials who dealt with the matter. The period of 'free trade' was disastrous. The monopolist purchasing agent of Bengal who was to be paid his remuneration on values and not on maunds and for one reason or the other whose conduct and relationship with the Government of Bengal is still shrouded in mystery brought Bihar the misery of high prices. It was to the interest of that purchasing agent to raise the price level. The era of hoarding was ushered in. Hoarding was practised not by cultivators, not by landlords but by various departments of Governments (both Central and Provincial) as well by industrial organizations. There was a keen competition between these powerful hoarders and the cultivators who did not keep the foodgrain for their own use are in great difficulties. Notes and coins cannot satisfy their hunger.

Can a Government which allowed one province to profiteer at the expense of another and found itself powerless to stop highhandedness and corruption that premeated the various operations connected with food accuse the landlords of bad leadership in the circumstances in which they were placed even if the charges of the Food Secretary be true?

The Food Secretary talks of the little man following the bigger man. Who is really the bigger man today? It is the Government; and what example have they set. They are the biggest hoarders and why should the Food Member have any cause of complaint if the little man follows the same example.

Again the Food Member talks of obligations and responsibilities which the landlords have. Yes, I acknowledge them and as I have already indicated my trouble is that the Government are making it more and more difficult for us to discharge them. I have already stated how the co-operation of the landlords was saught at the time of the last Bengal famine and how they have been maligned at the present time.

My apprehension is that if the execution of the policy laid down in the Food grain Policy Committee Report, which theoretically looks nice, is left entirely in the hands of the Government officials and those intimately connected with land are left out as they have so far been, the remedy will prove to be worse than the disease. We have heard lots of stories about bunglings and vagaries of the Rationing Authorities, and their underlings. We have heard how the local officials have so far miserably failed in the distribution of kerosene oil and salt to the villagers. We have been told about diverse methods of corruption and favouritism subsisting the offices of the Government. Of course, we have also heard that some of the culprits have been punished. But how many there may

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be who have escaped punishment? It is indeed a herculean task to check malpractices. We should, therefore, have such agencies as may have intimate acquaintances with local conditions and be of unquestionable probity. To my mind the best method of procuring is through the machinery of the landlords and the best method of distribution is through village panchayats functioning under the immediate supervision of landlords. We have seen that reliance on middlemen unconnected with land have only encouraged the multiplication of hoarding-centres and black-markets and price control machinery has almost collapsed. Of late, Government offices have been constantly multiplying and expanding with the result that a number of inefficient men, untrained for the work to be done have inevitably been employed. Therefore the Government officials who are ever migratory remain ignorant of the real situation prevailing in the villages. Why should the raw men be relied upon to do the delicate and important piece of work when old and tried system already exists?

Sir, we are asked to 'Grow More Food', and certain useful suggestions have been made in the Gregory Report. But there is a serious problem connected with it and it is that at present there is a great scarcity of bullock power. The prices of cattle have risen beyond all proportion. In this country we cannot expect machines like Tractors to replace bullocks. So, unless this problem is immediately tackled 'Grow More Food' campaign will not proceed as efficiently as desired.

Then Sir, it is now admitted by all that one of the main causes of our Food-trouble is inflation and it stated that it can be got rid of by (1) taxation, (2) borrowing and putting consumers goods in the market. Let me tell the House that those who depend on land for their living have very little purchasing power left to them and the burden of taxation falls very heavily on them. The only source of their income is the agricultural produce and they have to buy every thing else at a very high price. I have roughly indicated their essential liabilities and to them may be added, land revenue or rent, local and provincial taxes, interest on loan, etc. The war has of course brought windfall to those who have war contracts or have been taken into services connected with war. Any further taxation should, therefore, be introduced after due consideration of the burden already on the shoulders of those who will be affected by it. So far as the other two matters are concerned I need not say much because they are on voluntary basis and each man will judge his own capacity to contribute to the effort of counteracting inflation. I trust the Government also will stop pumping paper currency into the country and with due regard to the actual state of things adopt other fiscal devices to check inflation while asking us to co-operate in the drive.

Sir, before I conclude my observations on this motion I wish to say a word about price-control. It has not worked successfully uptil now because of the formation of black-market. It will cause great hardship to the agriculturists if simultaneously with the

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application of price-control on foodstuff, the prices of other commodities (specially those essential to them like cattle, farm implements, medicines, cloth) are not controlled, and generally, prices are not stabilised. The essential commodities have to be made available to the people before one can expect to control the price successfully. The matter requires careful handling and I trust that the Government will see to it that the entire scheme is a balanced one and it is carried out in such a manner that no real hardship is caused to any section of the people.

Sir, I am not an expert, and figures, which even the experts say are very often incomplete and deceptive, bewilder me. My remarks are those of a lay-man who gathers his experience from his day-to-day life. I am happy to find that His Excellency the Viceroy has taken up the question of food in right earnest, and I have no doubt that he will firmly handle the situation. Provinces should not be allowed to have their own way. We have seen how shamefully they have behaved. India is one and indivisible unit and the Centre must guide and control matters like this in which different parts of this country are interdependent on one another. If in the very beginning the Central Government would have taken up the question in its own hands instead of being content with merely issuing instructions to the provinces this crisis would probably have been averted. But it is never too late to mend. I trust His Excellency the Viceroy, who is also an eminent Field Marshal will not let the mistakes of the past recur and fully utilize his powers to keep a strong grip over the doings of the Provinces.

I am also in agreement with much of what has been recommended in the report of Foodgrain Policy Committee. All I wish is that no hardship may be caused to the general public in the execution of the policy of the Central Government, corruption should be checked to the utmost possible limit and the indigenous systems of this country should be utilized to their fullest extent.

This internal peril is indeed too serious at a time like the present one when enemy is so close to us. If words could put an end to it, it would have long ceased to exist. Words are often confusing and useless. We do not need them. We need energetic action on the part of Government and whole-hearted co-operation of the Governments' and the people of both the British and Indian India.

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No. 187/44

The Bengal Landholders Association
10, Old Post Office Street,
Calcutta, the 29th December, 1944

From
The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwar singh,
K.C.I.E, M.D., D.Lit. of Darbhanga.

President, The Bengal Landholders' Association.

To
The Assistant Secretary.
to the Government of Bengal Judicial Department,
Your Memorandum No. 323 (4) J. dated 6.10.44

Dear Sir,

My Association has given serious thought to the draft Hindu Code as prepared by the Rau-Committee. It has studied the matter from all points of view. The draft Hindu Code raises issues of far reaching consequences.

My Association is of the deliberate opinion that this is neither the appropriate time nor the suitble opportunity for embarking on a legislative measure of such vital importance to the entire Hindu community. The matters sought to be altered, modified or otherwise amended go to the roots of the vast Hindu society, and as such require cool, sober and dispassionate consideration in the light of the changes which are occurring in the thoughts of men and in the structure of society, and so my association thinks that now that men's minds are unsettled by reason especially of the war situation the code should be brought before public for consideration sometime after the war is over.

My Association thinks that the code as it stands now is highly objectionable and detrimental to the stability and well being of the Hindu community. The draft code is definitely prejudicial to the rights and interests of the Hindu propertied classes in general and to the Hindu women in particular.

My association is of opinion that it is unfair and unjustifiable on the part of the Government to interfere through legislative measures with the religious rights of the Hindus on the plea of giving them a unified code of laws no matter what schools of Hindu law they may be governed by.

Hindu religion, Hindu culture, Hindu customs and usages and Hindu law are

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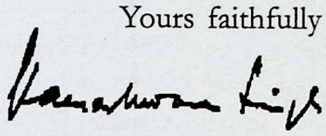
indissolubly interconnected, and therefore any attempt to seriously interfere with any of them as they stand now should be resisted in view of the fact that they are intergral and inseparable parts of the life of the vast Hindu population and that they derive their origin from Hindu scriptures and revelations of Hindu sages in days when Greece and Rome were not even heard of.

My Association therefore begs to enter its emphatic protest against any attempt at legislative interference with Hindu law and customs as they are now, simply because a section of the Hindus declare themselves to be progressive in their own way and are anxious for the radical changes as envisaged in the draft Code.

Yours faithfully



K. Singh
Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga
President
The Bengal Landholders' Association

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J. C. Sen Gupta
M.A., B.L., Advocate

GAUHATI
Date 6/2/1945

May it please Your Highness,

I am still alive to see the end of the Hindus by the Hindu Code. Your Highness knows about it I have printed a petition to His Excellency to stop the code. When the religion of the subjects is zeopardized Viceroy has authority to stop the Bill or veto it under his special power.

When Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria took the administration of India it was distinctly ruled that the religion of the subject will not be interfered with. I have mentioned all these facts in the petition to His Excellency.

Our suggestion to the Rau Committee or to the legislative assembly will not have an effect. They are all biased. I am therefore directly approaching the Viceroy. Kindly sign it and send it to the Viceroy through his private Secretary requesting him to place it before His Excellency.

I quote below Dr.Farooqi's statement in the course of his address to girl students, 74 Manick Tala Street, Calcutta (please see Hindustan Standard 5th March).

"There was no code for Islam or for Christians in India. Where was there the necessity for a code for Hindus alone? Codification of Hindu Laws would mean a complete surrender of their personal laws and religious sociology into the hands of British govt".

Yours obediently,

Sd/-
Kali Charan

Kindly let me know if you have
forwarded it to His Excellency.

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
SPEECH OF MAHARAJADHIRAJA SIR KAMESHWAR SINGH OF DARBHANGA

Congratulating Dr. Rajendra Prasad on his election as the permanent Chairman of the Constituent Assembly.

11th December, 1946

The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraj Sir Kameshwar Singh of Darbhanga (Bihar: General): "Mr. Chairman, this is indeed a proud day for all of us. The accredited representatives of our countrymen have chosen Dr. Rajendra Prasad, an illustrious son of India, to be the custodian of the dignity and power of this august Assembly. In doing so, they have paid the highest tribute not only to his own greatness but also to our province whose brightest jewel he happens to be. I rejoice at this recognition. His character, ability, tact, scholarship, culture, services and sacrifices, and above all, his self-effacement in the cause of our motherland can never fail to attract people to him, and he commands love, respect and admiration of even those who, strictly speaking cannot be described as his political adherents. I salute him as one of those rare saints who are honoured by all even in their own homes. I realise that the task before him is stupendous. From bondage he shall have to lead this country to freedom. He shall have to help us to proceed on the right path and cross the innumerable hurdles that lie on our way. He shall have to protect us whenever there may be any encroachment on our rights and privileges from any quarter and make everyone feel the force of his justice, impartiality and firmness. Knowing as I do his personal charm, devotion to duty, broadmindedness, and other great qualities, I have no doubt that he will satisfactorily manage the affairs of the high Office,..... in which he has been, by common consent, installed. May God grant him health and long life so that he may successfully discharge his onerous duties, enjoy the fruit of his labour. Sir, I congratulate him, wish him luck, and hope that he will have the loyal co-operation of everyone of us who have assembled here to work under his guidance for the achievement, by peaceful means, of our cherished goal, Swaraj."

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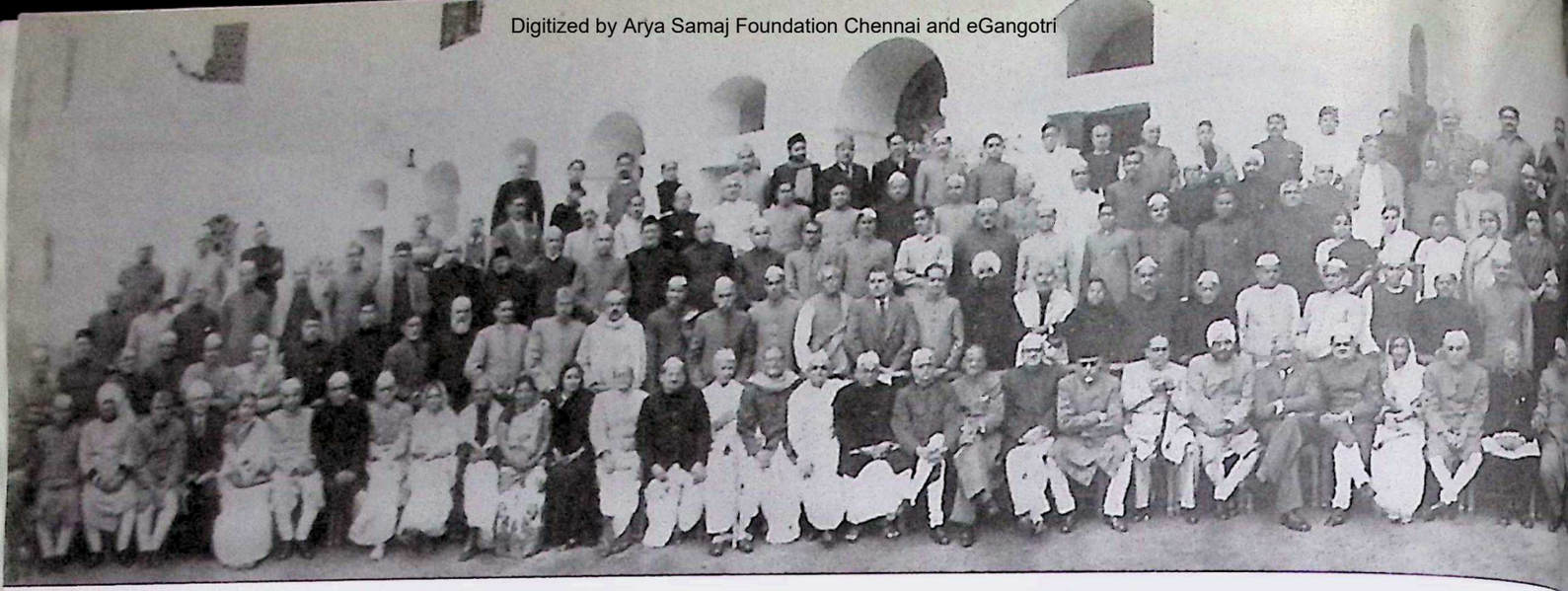

CONSTITUENT ASSE

Sitting (3rd from left) : Ma

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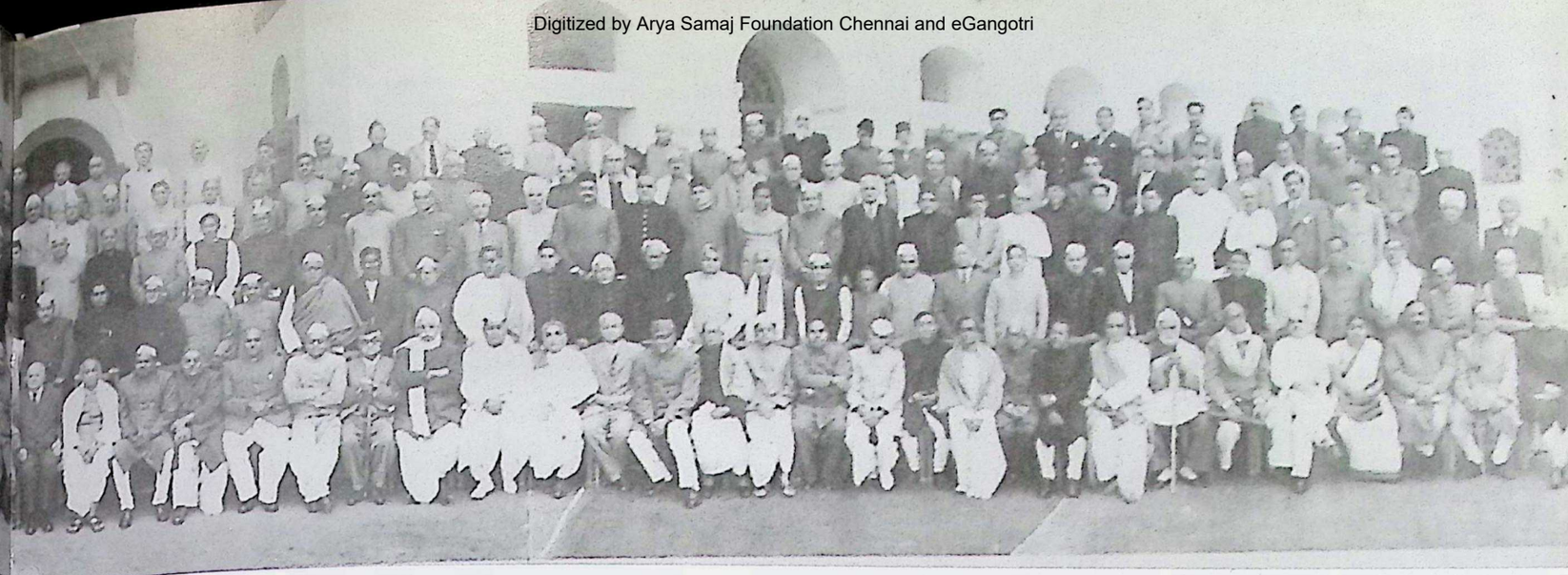

BLY OF INDIA, 1946

rajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh

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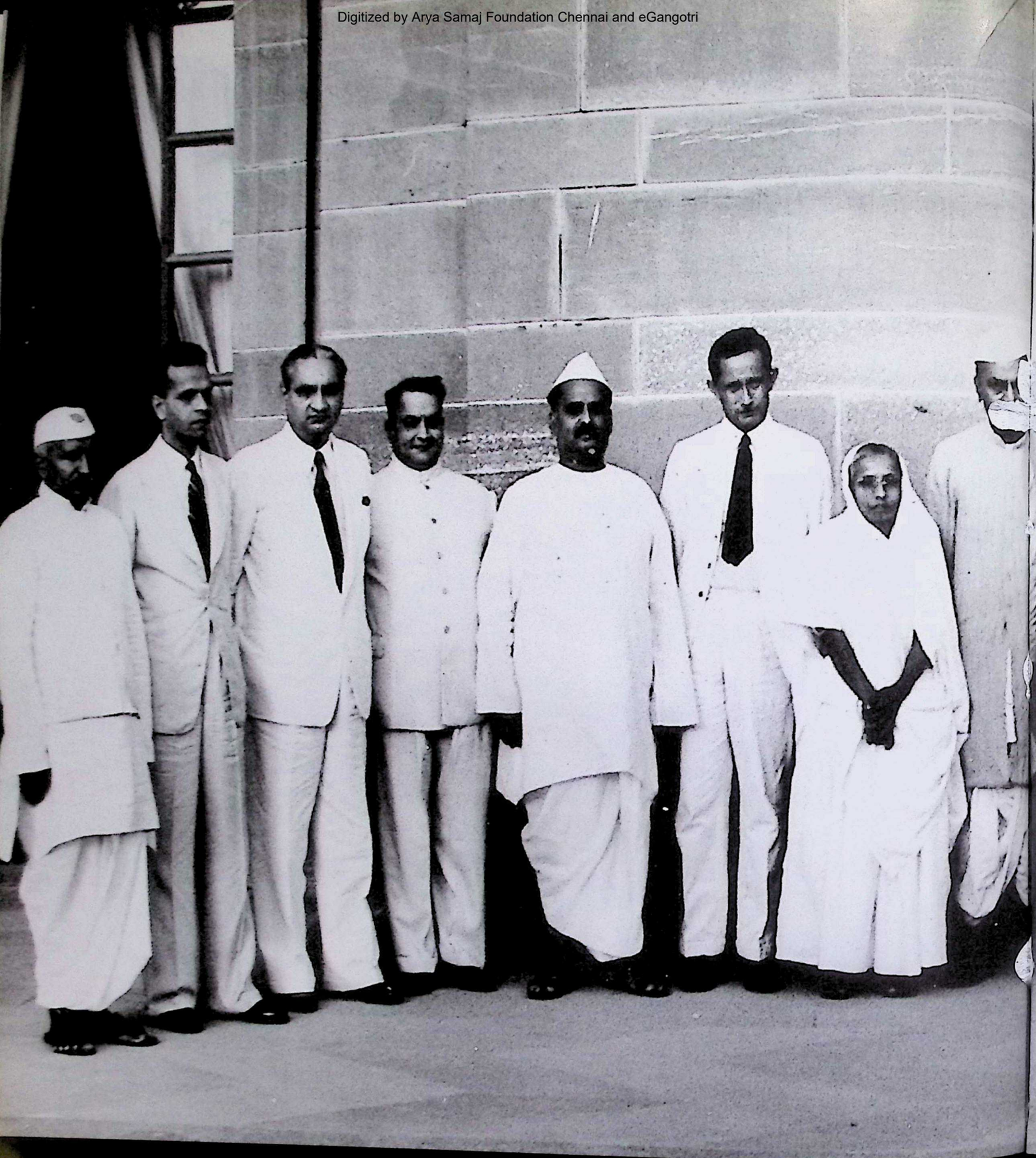

MAHARAJADHIRAJA KAMESHWI
WITH DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD IN CENTR

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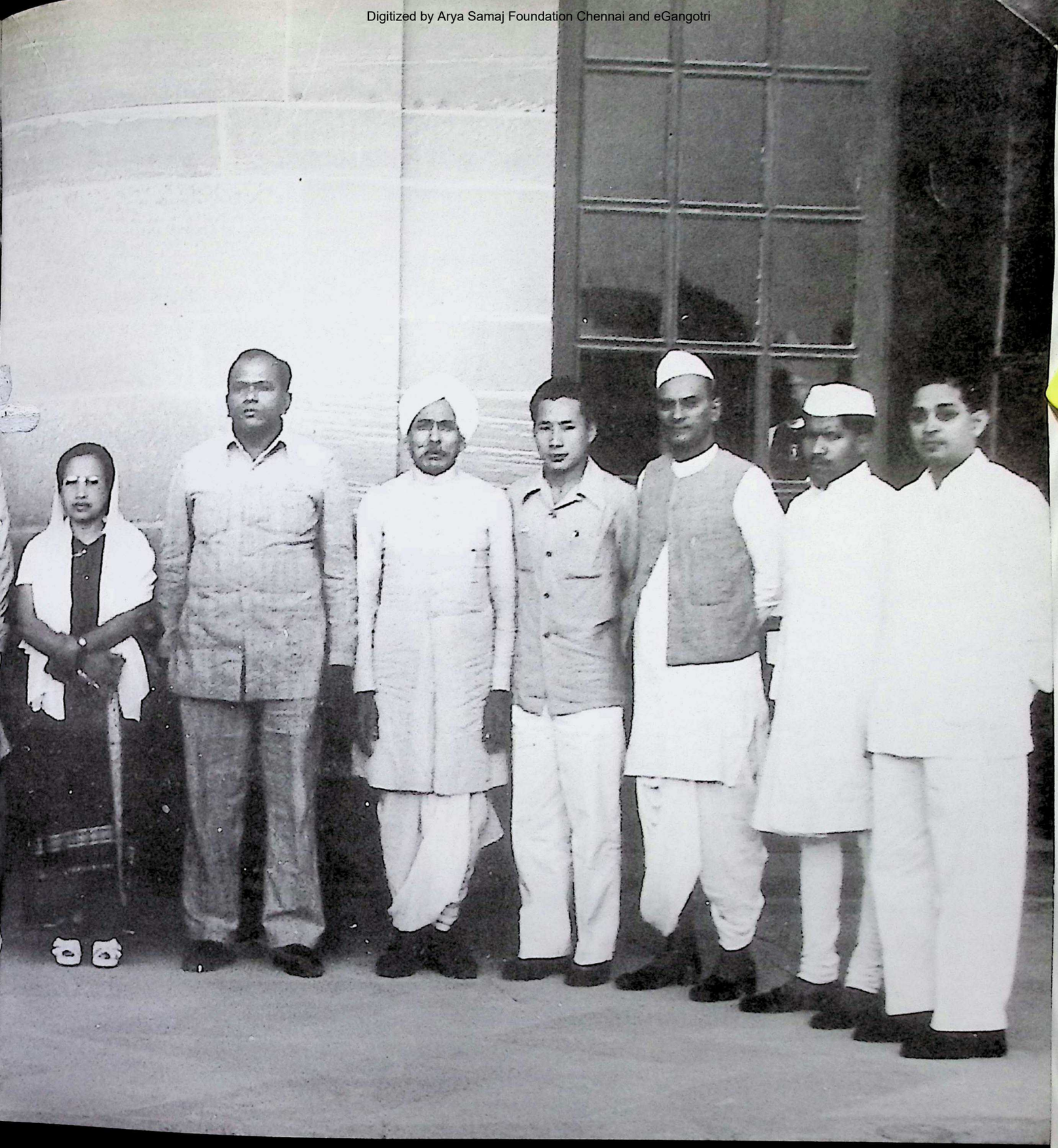

NGH (FOURTH FROM LEFT)
FRONT OF THE PARLIAMENT HOUSE)

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
SPEECH OF MAHARAJADHIRAJA SIR KAMESHWAR SINGH OF DARBHANGA

Congratulating Pt.Nehru on decision to join Common Wealth of Nations

17th May, 1949.

Shri Kameshwar Singh of Darbhanga (Bihar: General): "Mr.President, allow me to avail myself of this opportunity to offer my humble felicitations to the Honourable Prime Minister on the success of his mission. He has steered clear of the conflicting dogmas and, taking a realistic view of the situation, has placed India in a position from which she can usefully promote the peace of the world.

The status of India as a free and independent country has been recognised as a sovereign democratic Republic. The people inhabiting this country will not owe allegiance to the Crown as they had hitherto done. She has to vindicate her fetters whether external or internal. Complete sovereignty will vest in the people of India and she will stand with her head erect with the other free nations of the world.

But, as things are, no country can remain in isolation in the present-day world. Specially, for a country like ours, which has thrown off the foreign yoke only recently and is struggling hard to stand on her own feet, it is impossible to think that she will have nothing to do with others. She will be stultifying her growth and even imperilling her freedom if she takes up that attitude. She has, therefore, through her able Prime Minister, shown great statesmanship by agreeing to remain a member of the Commonwealth. This Commonwealth has changed its character and assumed a new form. The members of the Commonwealth have according to convention and through agreement changed its structure and pattern. It has been emphasised that allegiance to the Crown is not the essential feature of the Commonwealth organisation. India, on the other hand, has agreed to regard the King of England and dominions as the symbolic Head of the Commonwealth. All this has been done by agreement in pursuance of a very high objective, namely the establishment of peace and prosperity in the world. India like any other country can walk out of the Commonwealth at any moment she feels that her national ideals and aspirations will not be fulfilled by remaining within that organisation. The agreement is for a specific purpose and it can be broken if the parties to that agreement do not act in a manner which may achieve that end. Our Prime minister has categorically said that this does not mean alignment of India with any of the power blocs. As a staunch believer in the tenets of democracy she could not have taken any other step. ..... She cannot see human

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freedom and human dignity destroyed by the adoption of a cult according to which a human being is treated as a machine.

India has to look to her own national interest and situated as she is today her close association with the Commonwealth is the result of the compulsion of necessity.

Past events have shown that in this new set up of Commonwealth India can play a decisive role in the affairs of the world. She is by common consent the leading country in South-East Asia. Both history and geography entitle her to ensure the peace of the world. But she can discharge that function only if she is strong both militarily and economically. She can be made so by the co-operation of the Commonwealth countries and America. She can be made so by the better alliance .....

Some people have charged our Prime Minister with the crime of allying this country with British Imperialism. A greater falsehood could not have been uttered. With the freedom to leave the Commonwealth at will such charges are baseless. .....

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Purnea,
June 16, 1952

Revered Maharajadhiraja,

You did something during the last general elections which had no parallel in history when you refused to say a word against the Congress or the Congressmen who were abusing you day in and day out. You set an example in patience, forbearance and magnanimity which was unique. These qualities were again demonstrated when in spite of the fact that you own the Indian Nation, Murli Manohar Prasad , who is eating your salt, denounced the move for formation of Mithila province, a demand for which was voiced at the meeting of the Maithili Mahasabha held at Malda under your presidentship.

The tradition of sobriety, patience and forbearance that is yours however is not, unfortunately, reflected in the paper that you own. Any body having the least knowledge and acquaintance of you is horrified at the hymn of hate that is being preached against the Bengalees and Oriyas ad nauseum by men in your pay, Murli Manohar and Brajnandan Azad, while eating your salt they are completely disowning you and discrediting you by their writings and making at the same time money from Secret Funds of the Bihar Government distributed through the Publicity Department. Both of them are virtually minting money through the Government-sponsored Bihar Association and the Bihar Hitaishi Sabha. And the scandal is so stinking that any body going to Patna hears of it from all sides. Azad is so constantly touring Bihar on behalf of the Bihar Hitaishi Sabha at Government cost to create as much bad blood as he can against the Bengalees and Oriyas living in and outside Bihar.

Nobody minds sober criticism of any State or any section of the people, but what Azad and Murli are doing is worse than what the Muslim Leaguers ever could dream of preaching against the Hindus. They are out to shed the blood of Bengalees and Oriyas wherever possible by instigating both educated and unsophisticated people of Bihar against them day in and day out.

The tragedy is that their sins are being attributed to you as you own the newspaper.

Yours respectfully,

Sd/-
Anutosh Sen

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OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL DISTRICT MAGISTRATE OF DARBHANGA

D.O.NO.6826 R

LAHERIASARAI,
THE 2nd / 3rd AUGUST'57

My dear Maharajadhiraj,

It is well known and I think you also must be aware of it that the commemoration centenary of the 1857 war of Indian Independence is to be celebrated throughout the whole of the Union of India on the 15th and 16th August, 1957. The final programme has already been drawn up by the Government of India and communicated to all concerned. The programme includes the publication of a history of the freedom movement of India.

Your great ancestors have, no doubt, played an important part in the interest of the Freedom of our country. Perhaps you will be glad to know that Sri Md. Ilyas Rahmani, an Assistant of this Collectorate who was at one time a Translator in your office, has discovered some materials from the Government records which give out a true picture of the activities of the Rajas of your family who served the cause of Freedom during early British rule. The first struggle as recorded was in 1757 by Raja Narendra Singh against Lord Clive. Of course, the Raja of your family never cared for the alien Government so long as the British Power was not effectively consolidated.

Further, a history of Freedom movement in Bihar is also under compilation under the auspicious of K.P. Jayaswal Research Institute. Any additional information supplied by you with regard to the activities rendered by your family will be highly appreciated with cordial thanks and duly incorporated in the proposed history as well as in the Revision of the District gazetteer of Darbhanga. The article is being prepared in this office for onward transmission.

With my best complements and expecting your kind reply at an early date.

Yours sincerely,

D.P. Sinha

To
Shri Kameshwar Singh,
K.C.I.E.,LL.D., D. Litt.,
Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga

C.K.Dutta
2.8.1957.

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THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF INDIA, DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD
ON HIS VISIT TO DARBHANGA, 1950-51

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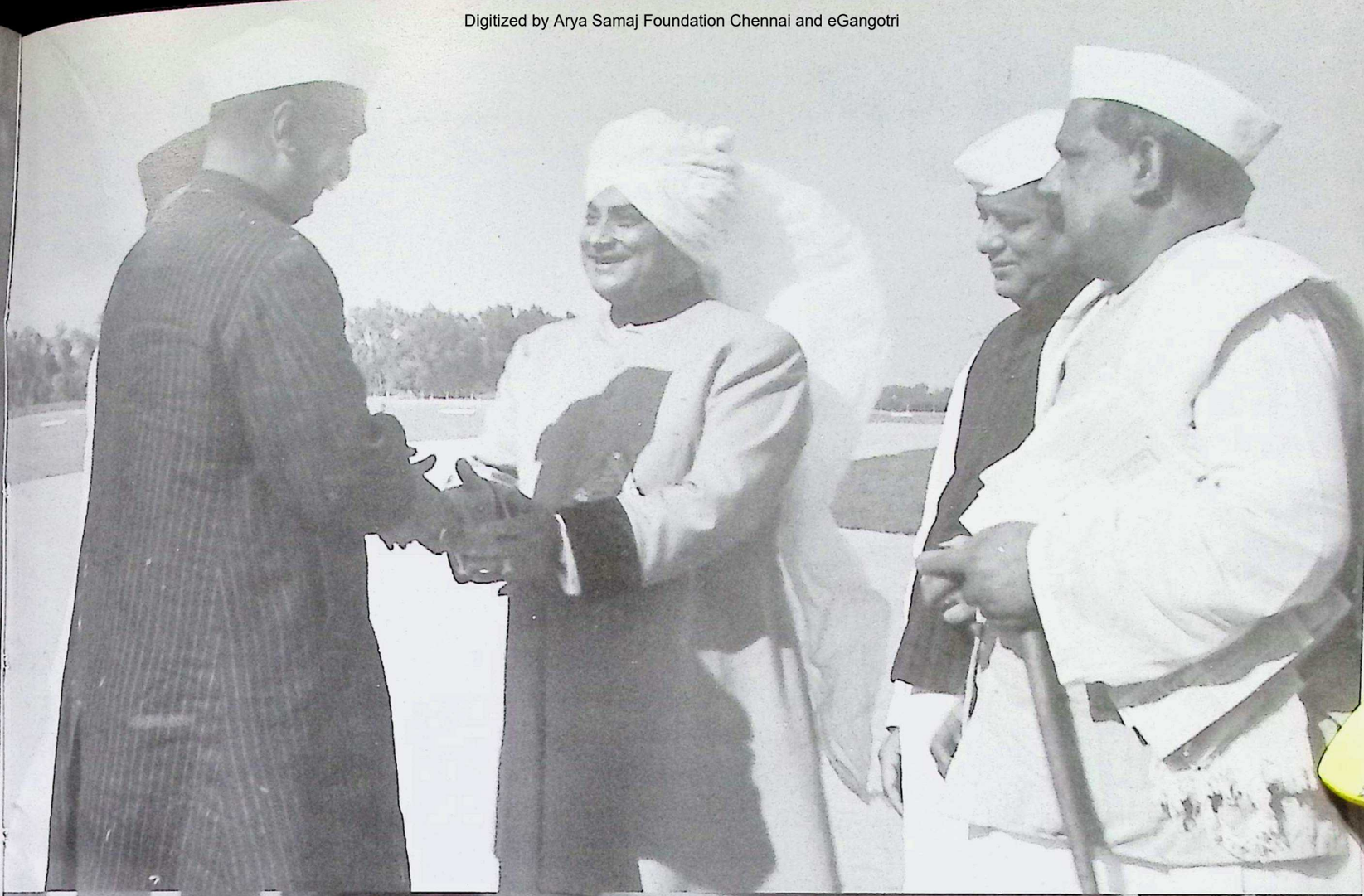

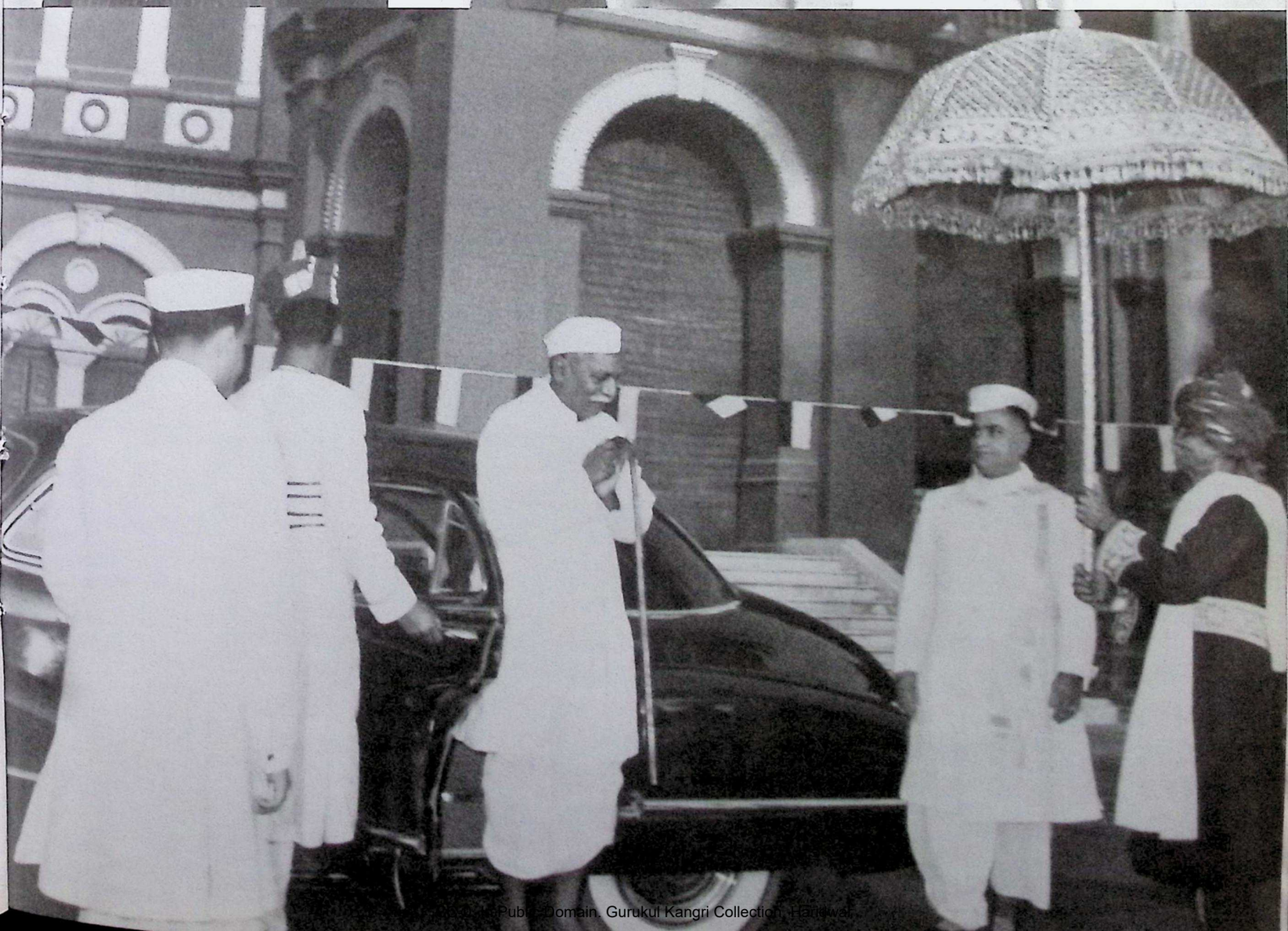

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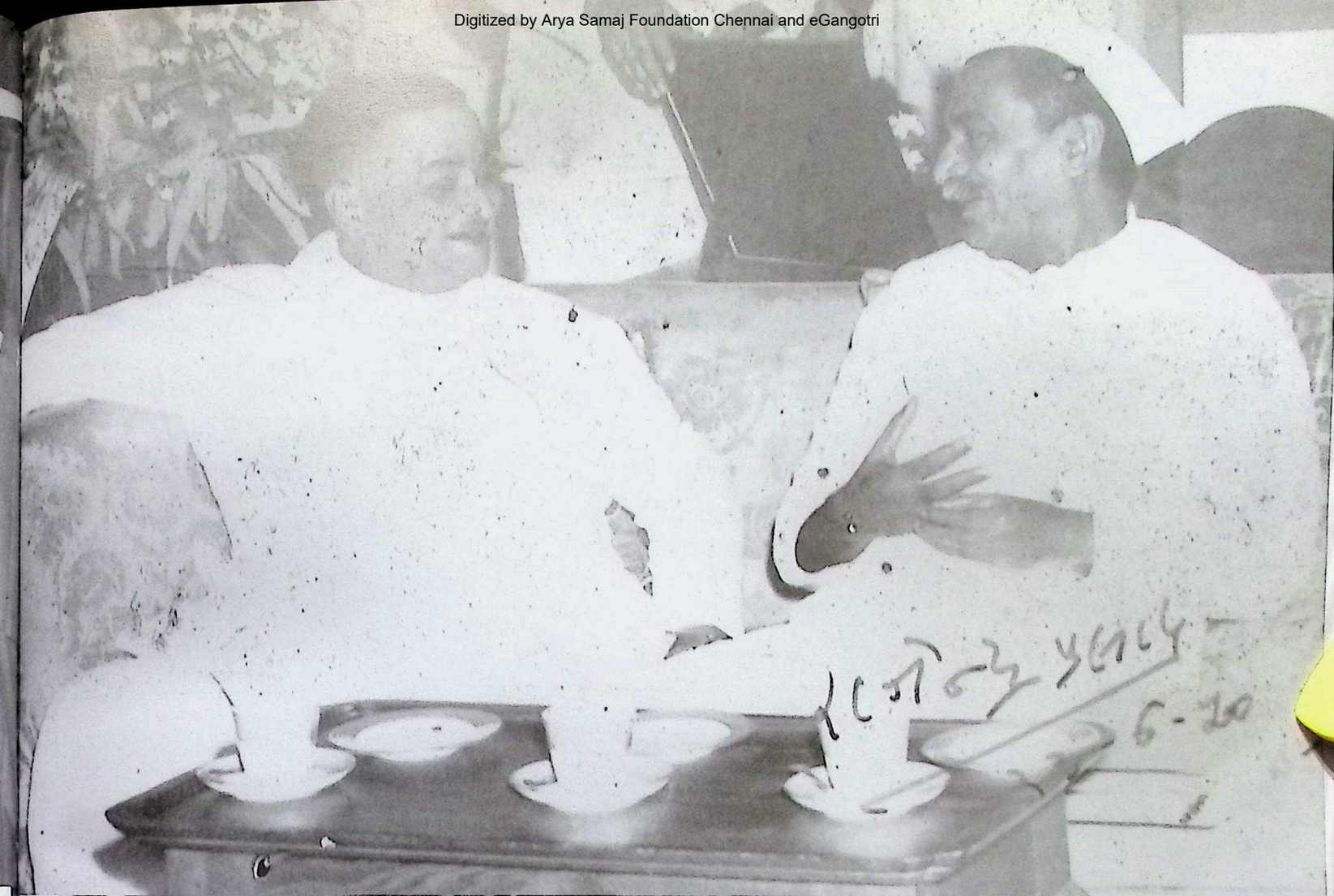

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Maharajadhiraja with the Prime Minister of the Interim Govt. and Pandit Nehru

Maharajadhiraja with Pandit Nehru, C. Rajagopalachari and Sri Krishna Sinha

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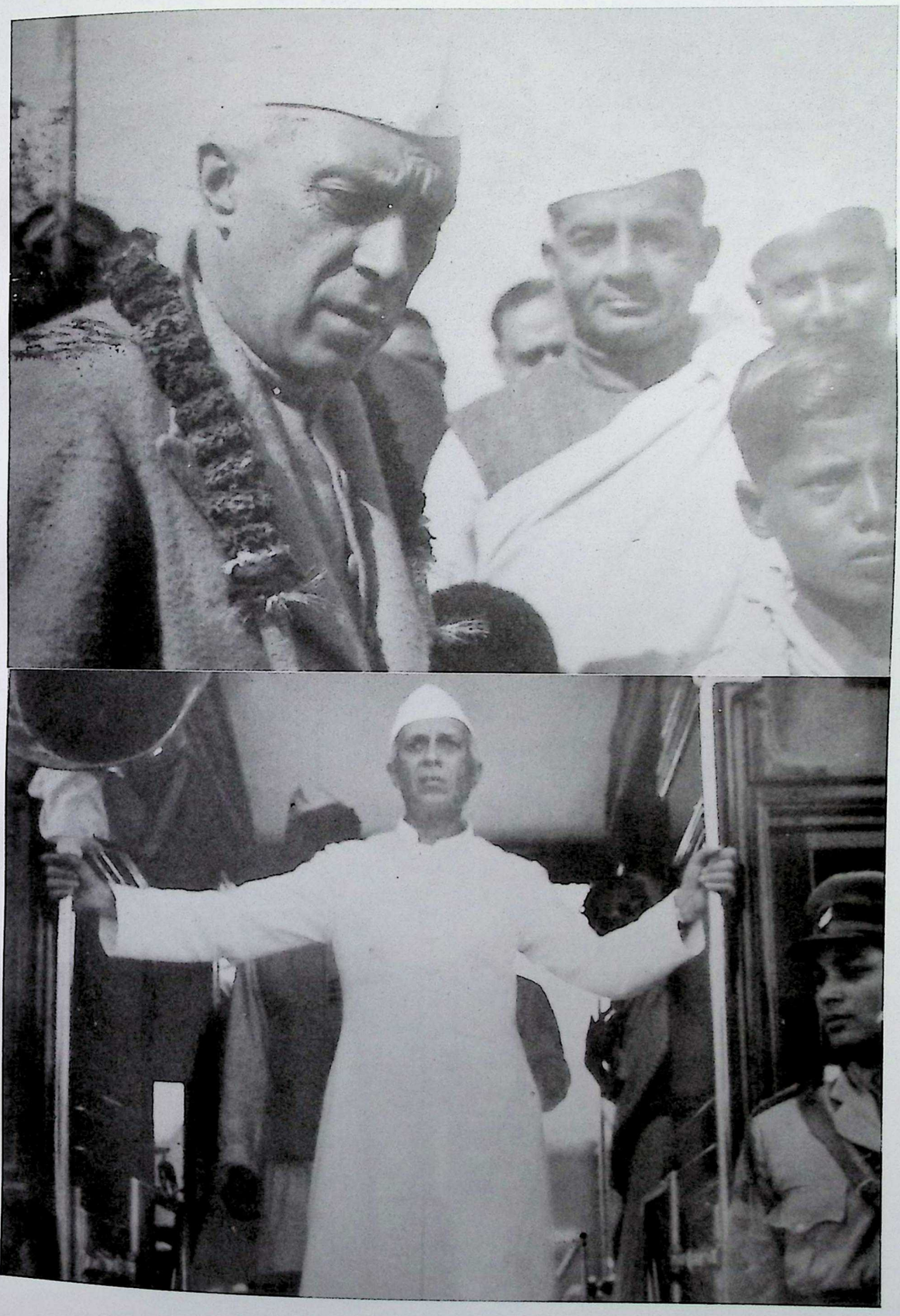
PANDIT NEHRU'S VISIT TO DARBHANGA



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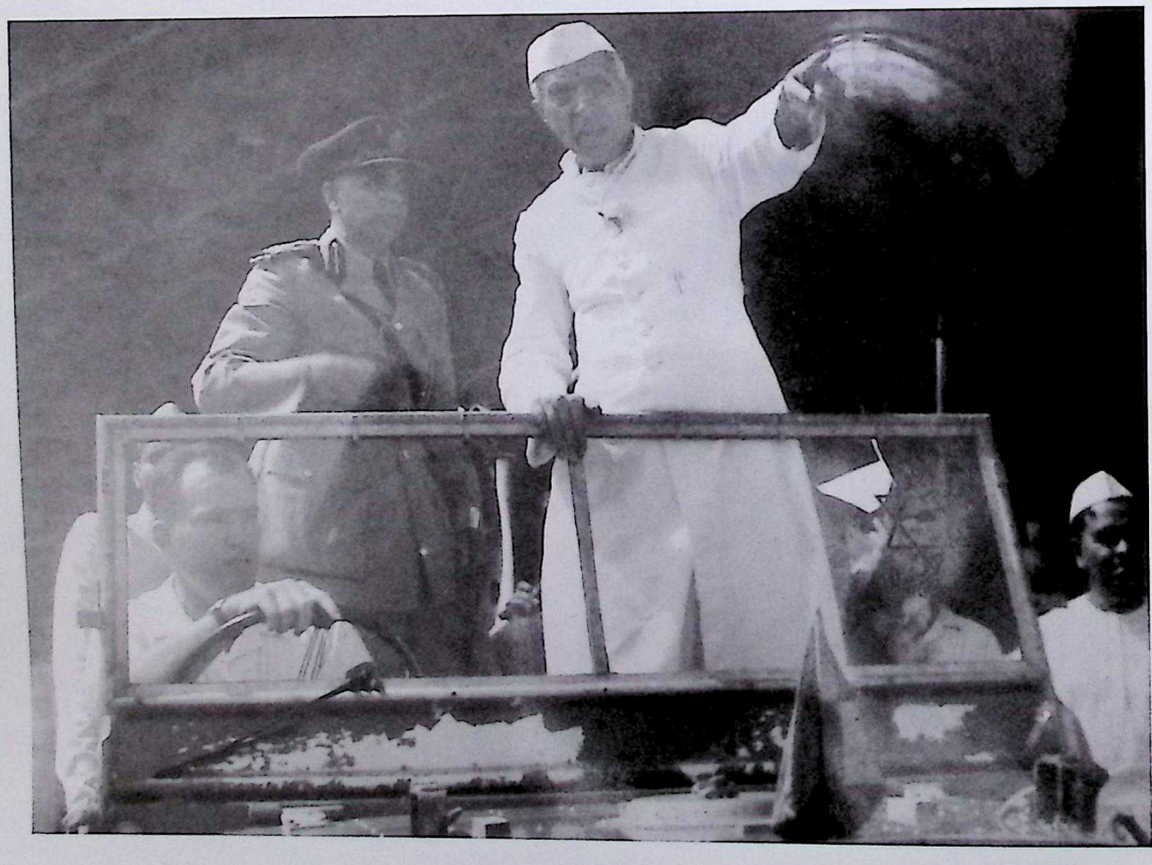

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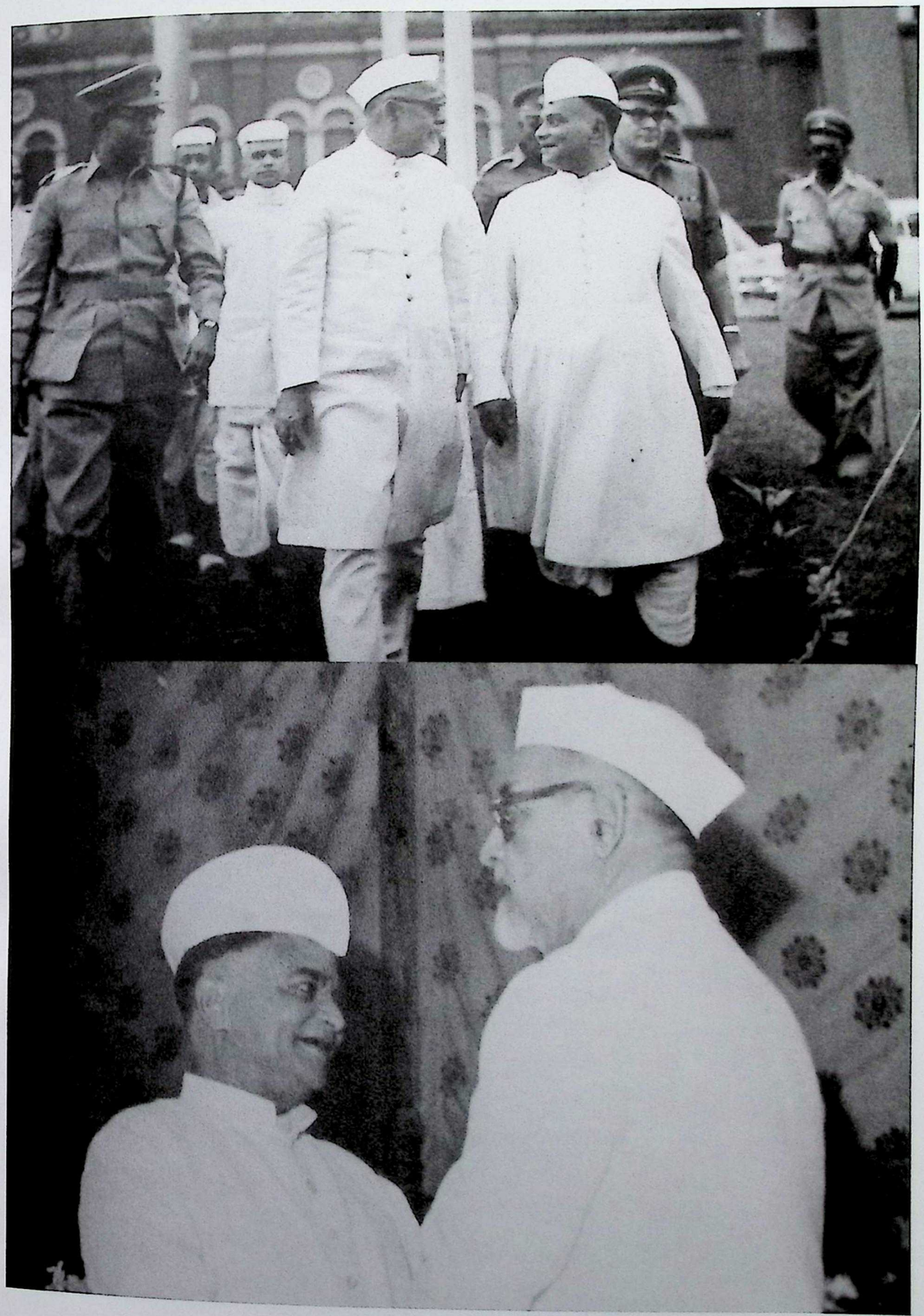
MAHARAJADHIRAJA WITH DR. ZAKIR HUSSAIN



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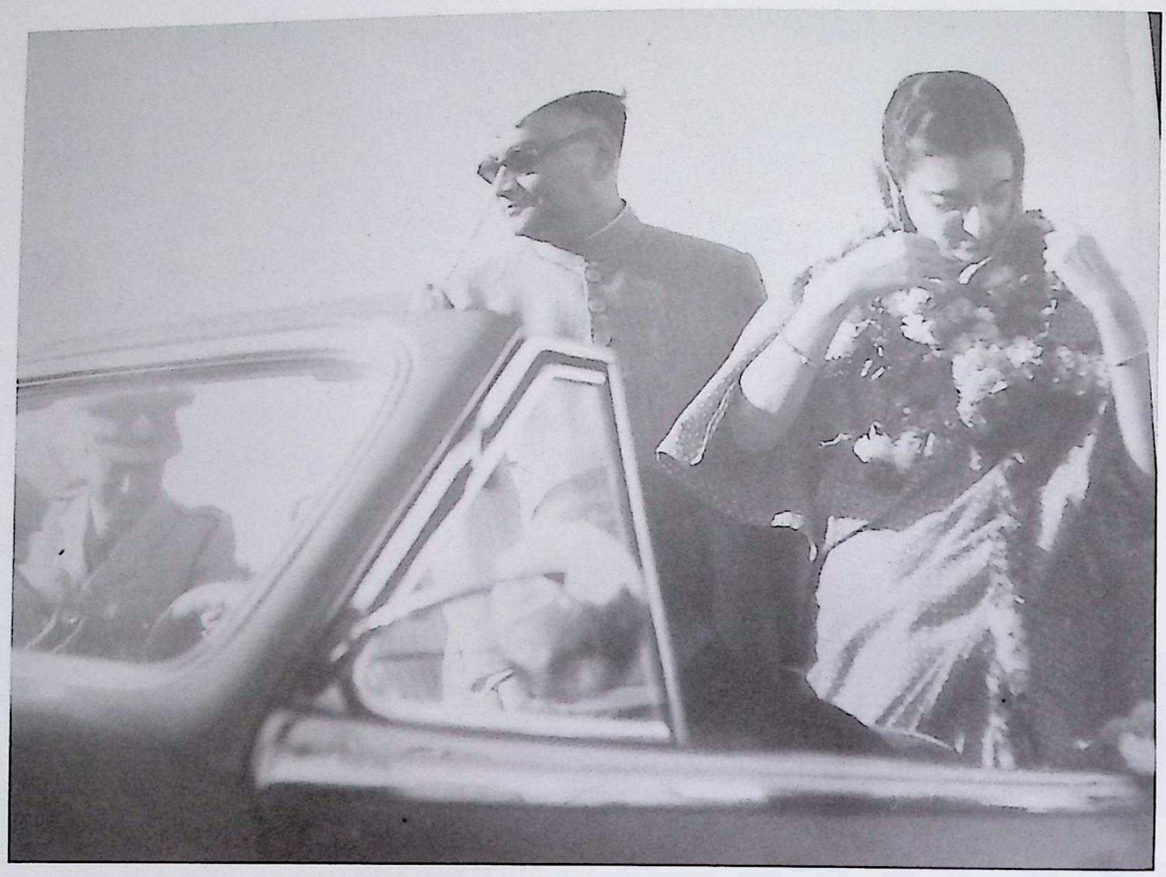
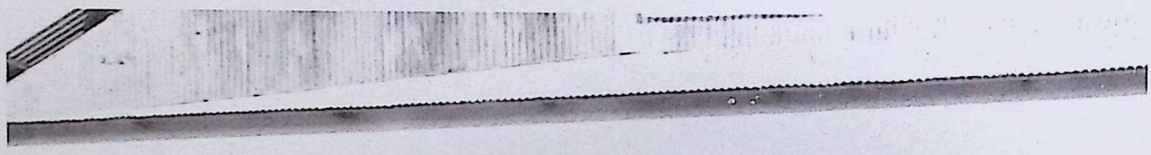
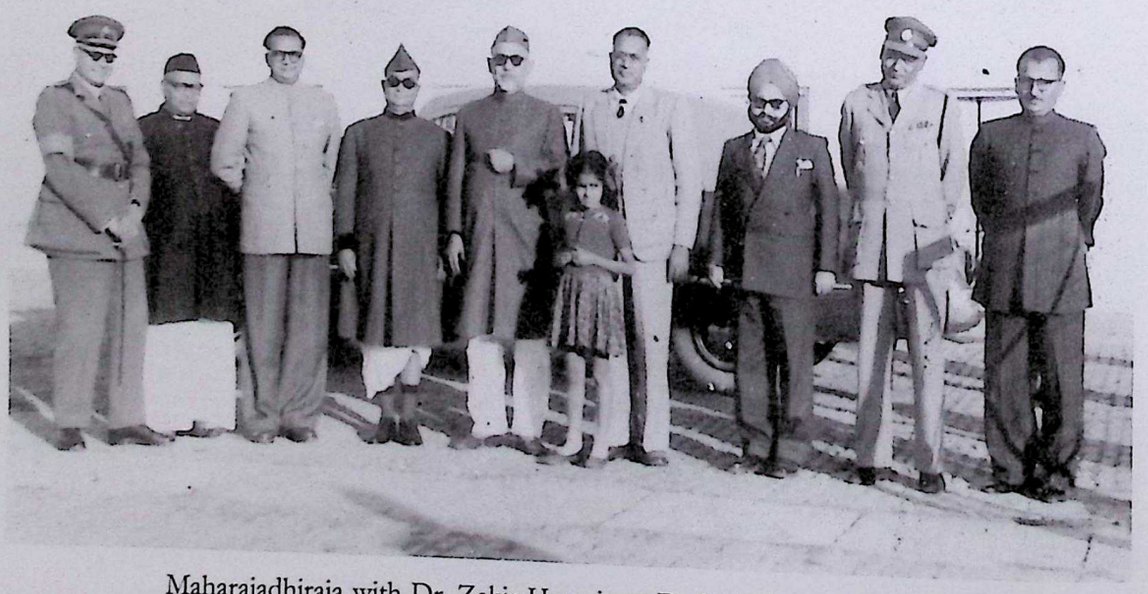


Maharajadhiraja with Mrs. Indira Gandhi at Darbhanga





Maharajadhiraja with Dr. Zakir Hussain at Darbhanga Airport, 1960

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Maharajadhiraja with Mrs. Indira Gandhi at Darbhanga

Maharajadhiraja with Sri Krishna Sinha, First Chief Minister of Bihar at Darbhanga Airport

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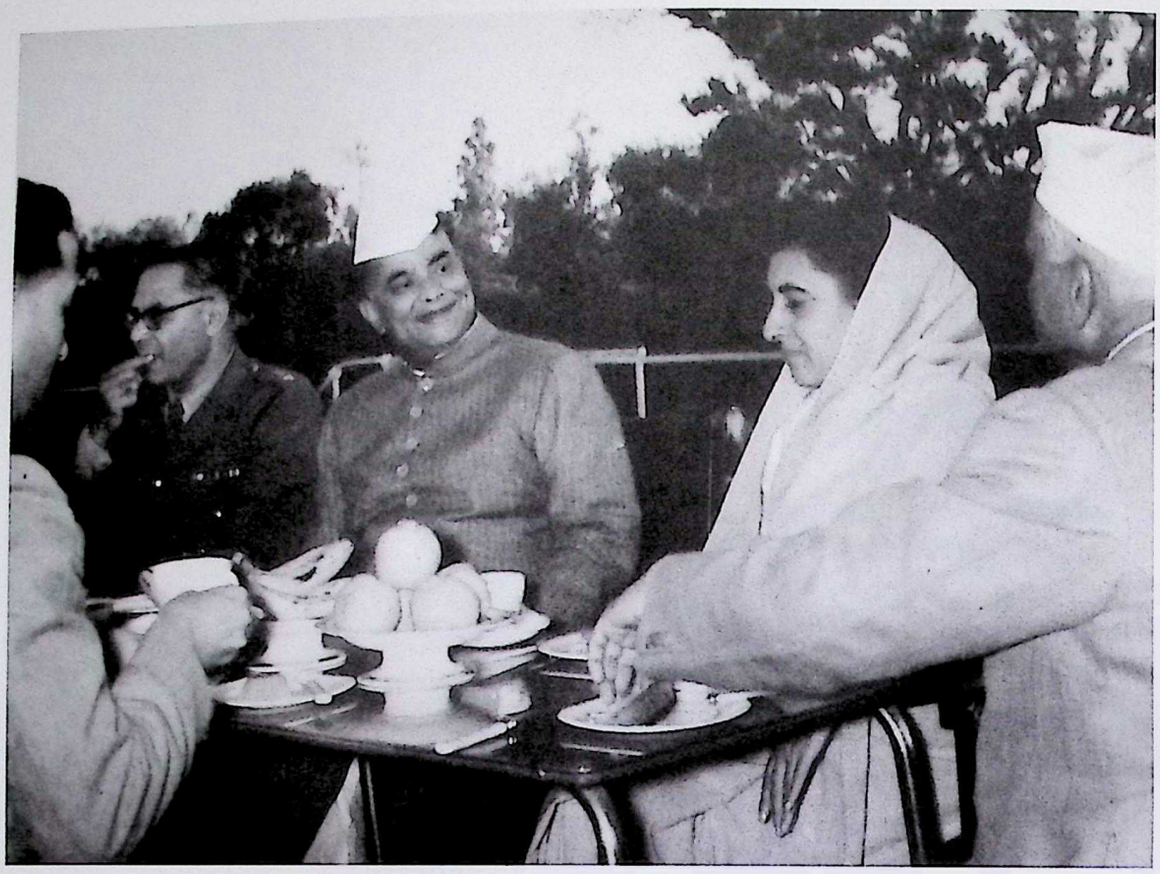
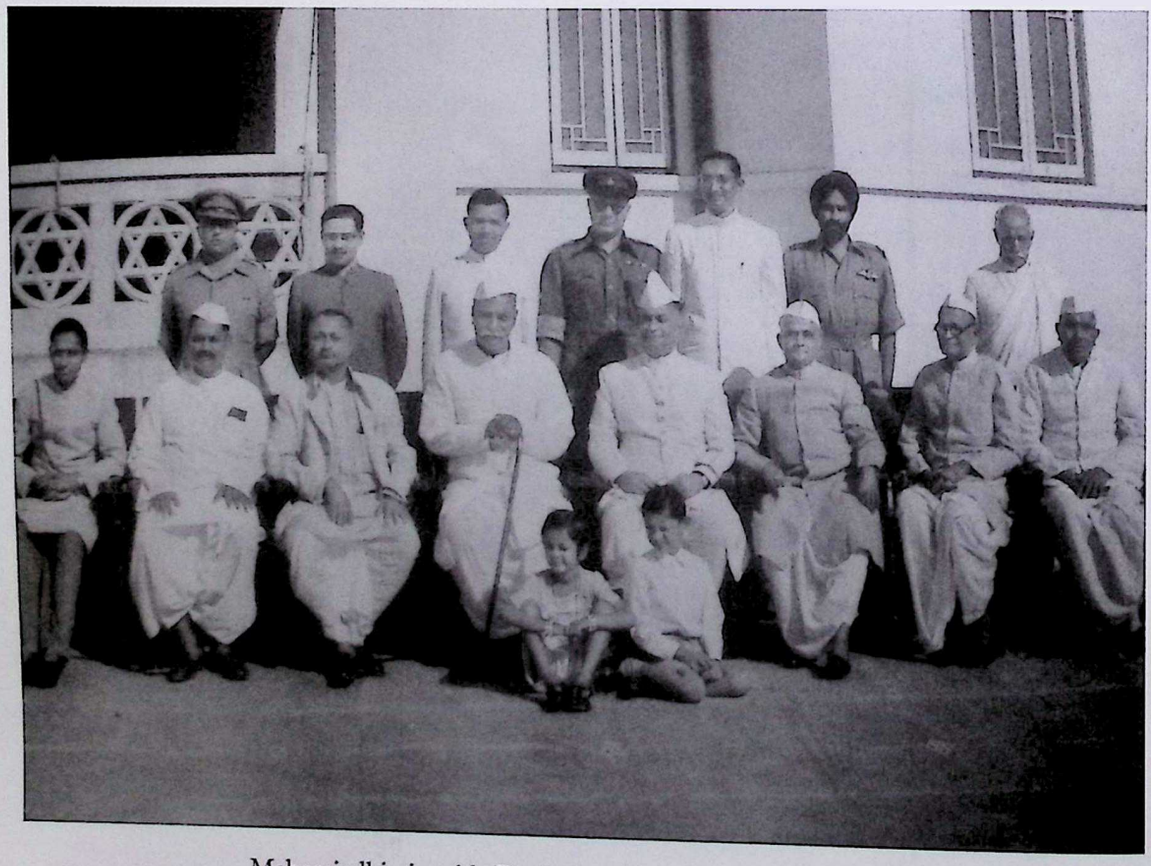


Maharajadhiraja with Mrs. Indira Gandhi at Darbhanga



Maharajadhiraja with Dr. Rajendra Prasad, in Darbhanga

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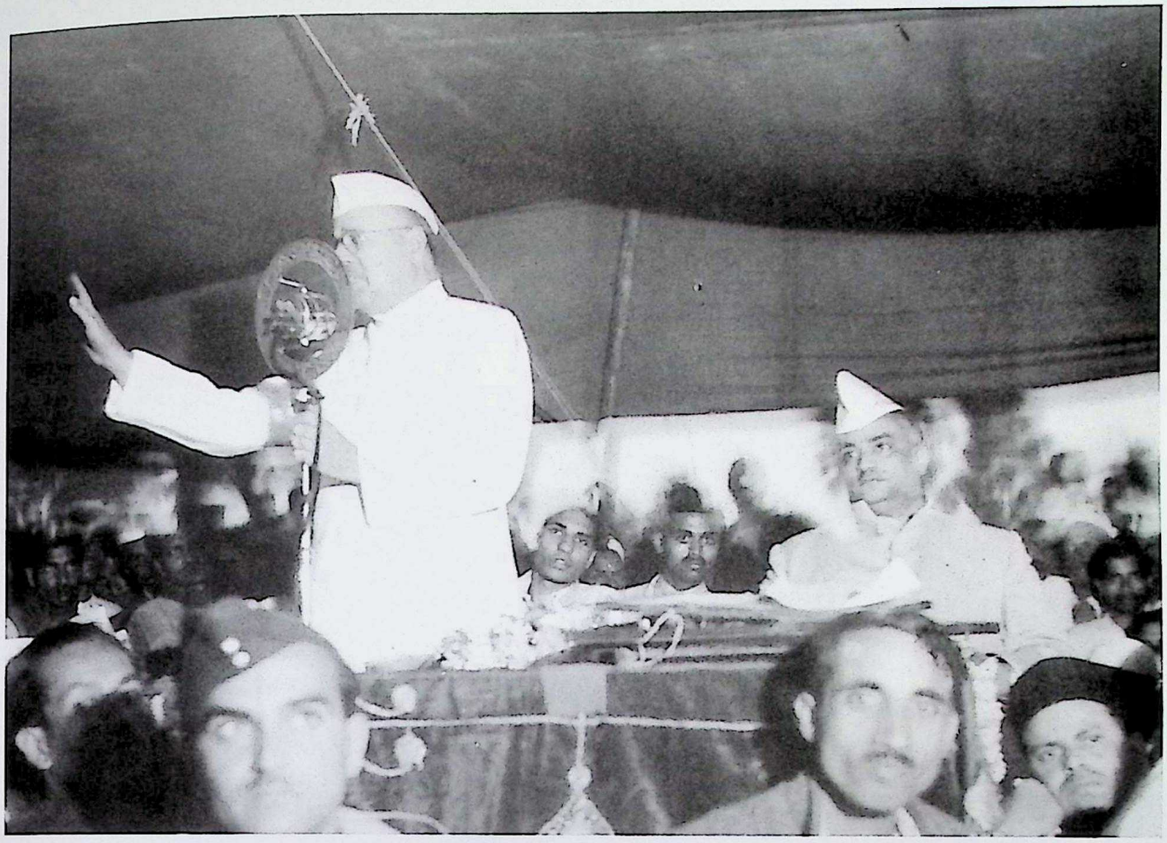

Maharajadhiraja with Shri Diwakar, Governor of Bihar

Maharajadhiraja Darbhanga with Maharajadhiraja Bikaner

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Maharajadhiraja with Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Governor of Bihar at Darbhanga

Governor of Bihar's visit to Darbhanga

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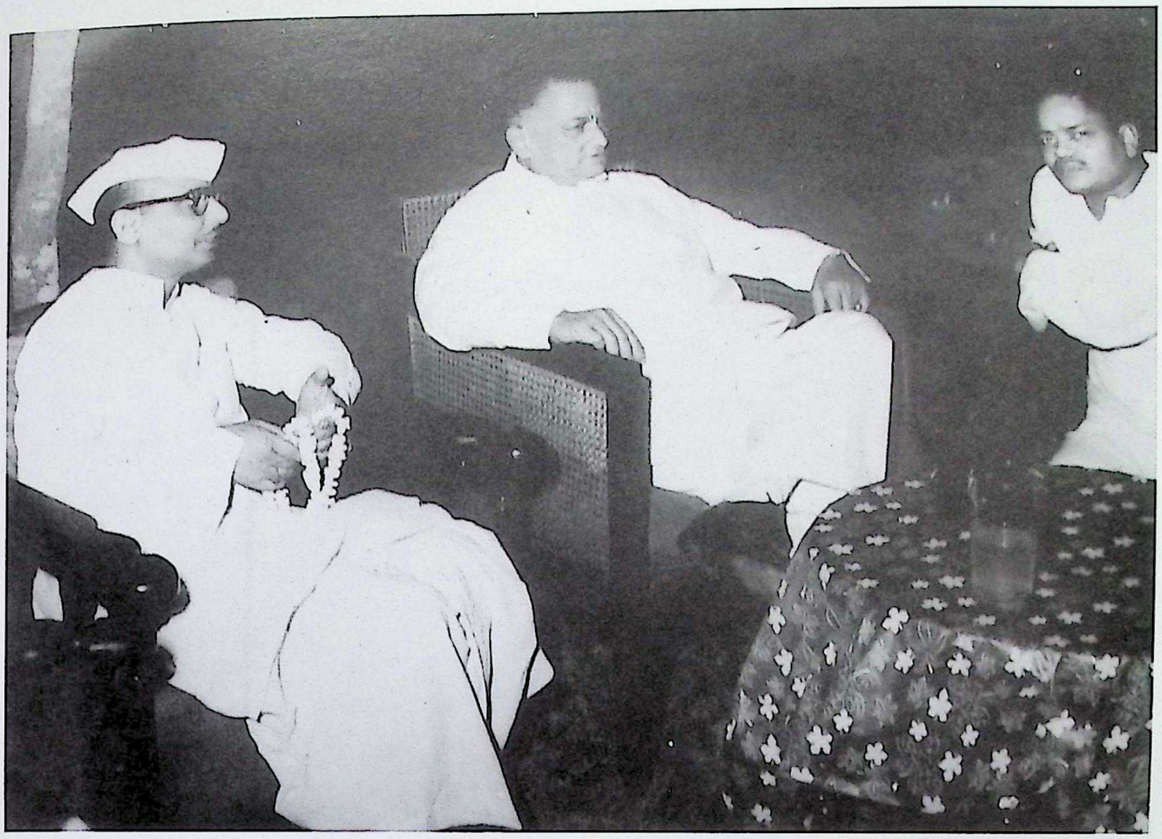

Maharajadhiraja with Shri Harinath Mishra and Shri Satyendra Narain Sinha

Zamindars of Bihar enjoying cultural programme at Darbhanga

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Maharajadhiraja with Shri Krishna Sinha at Darbhanga

Maharajadhiraja welcoming Maharaja of Coochbehar at Darbhanga

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Raja Bahadur Visheshwar Singh and G.P. Danby (Manager, Raj Darbhanga)

Maharajadhiraja with the ruling chiefs of India

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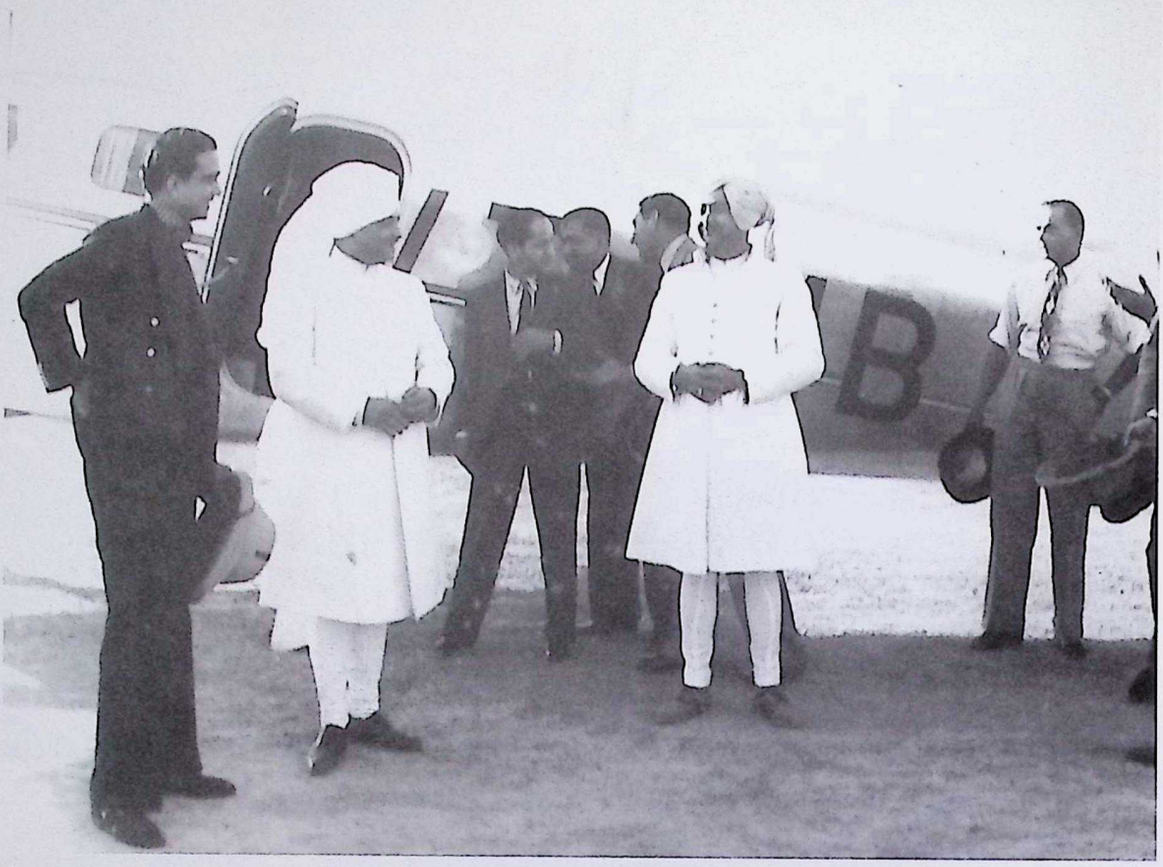
WELCOMING ROYAL DIGNITORIES AT DARBHANGA, 1942



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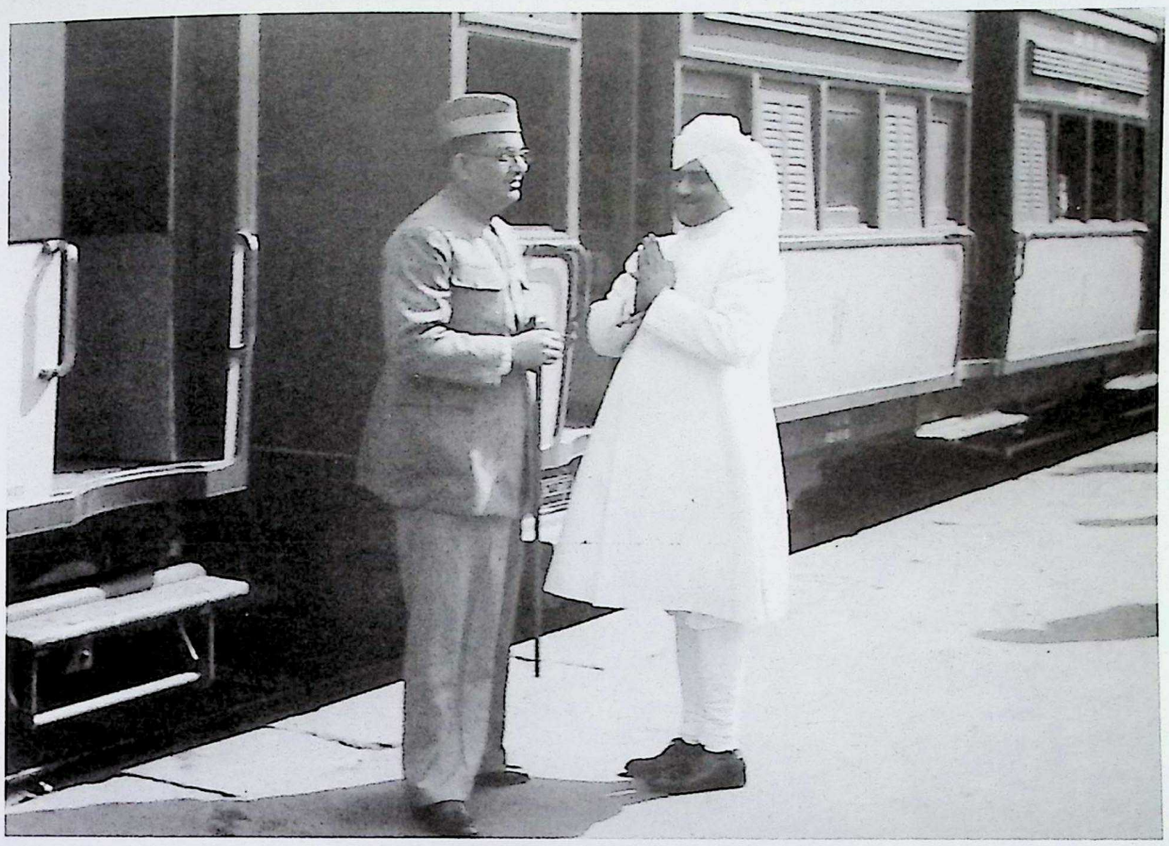
WELCOMING ROYAL DIGNITORIES AT DARBHANGA, 1942



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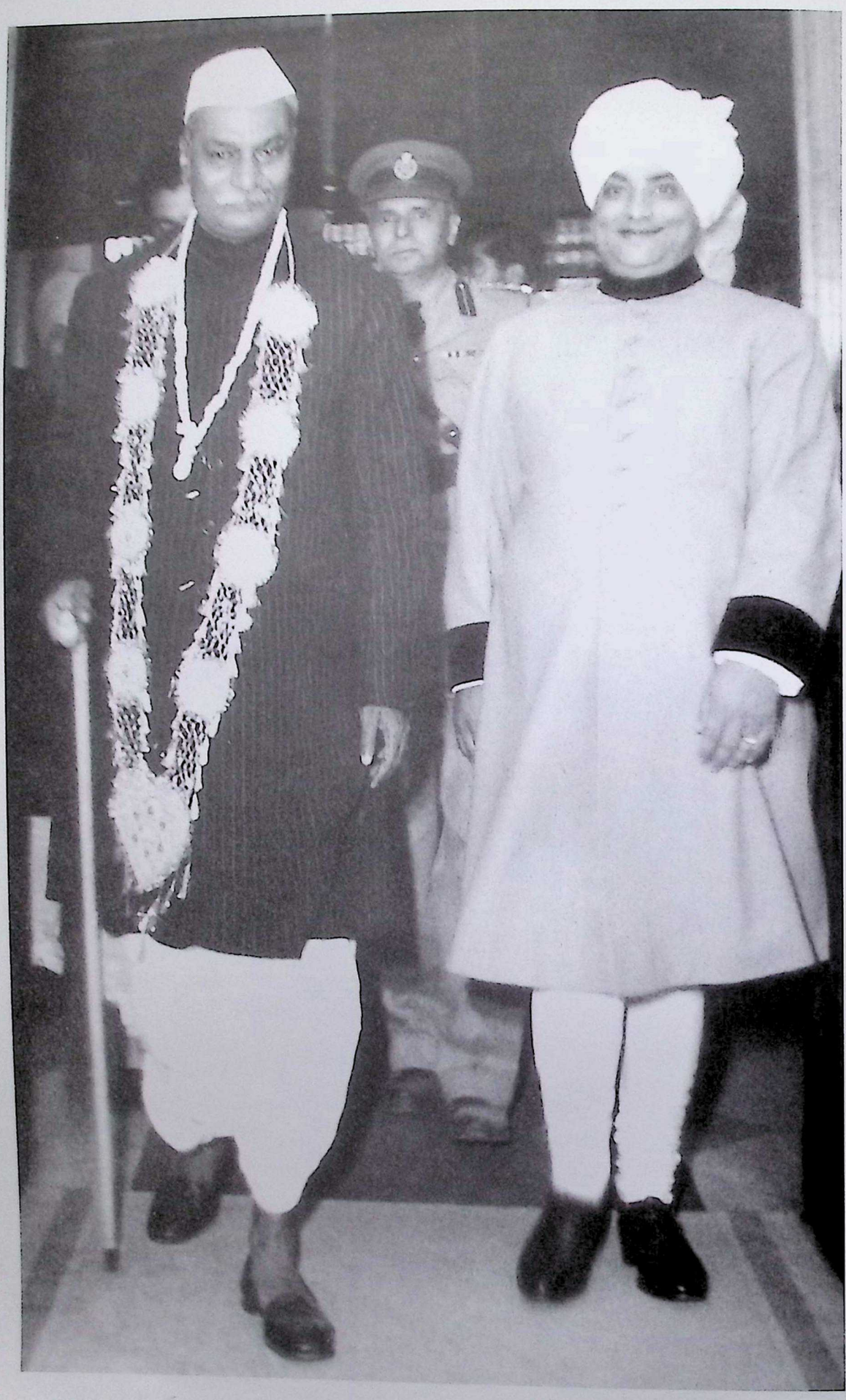

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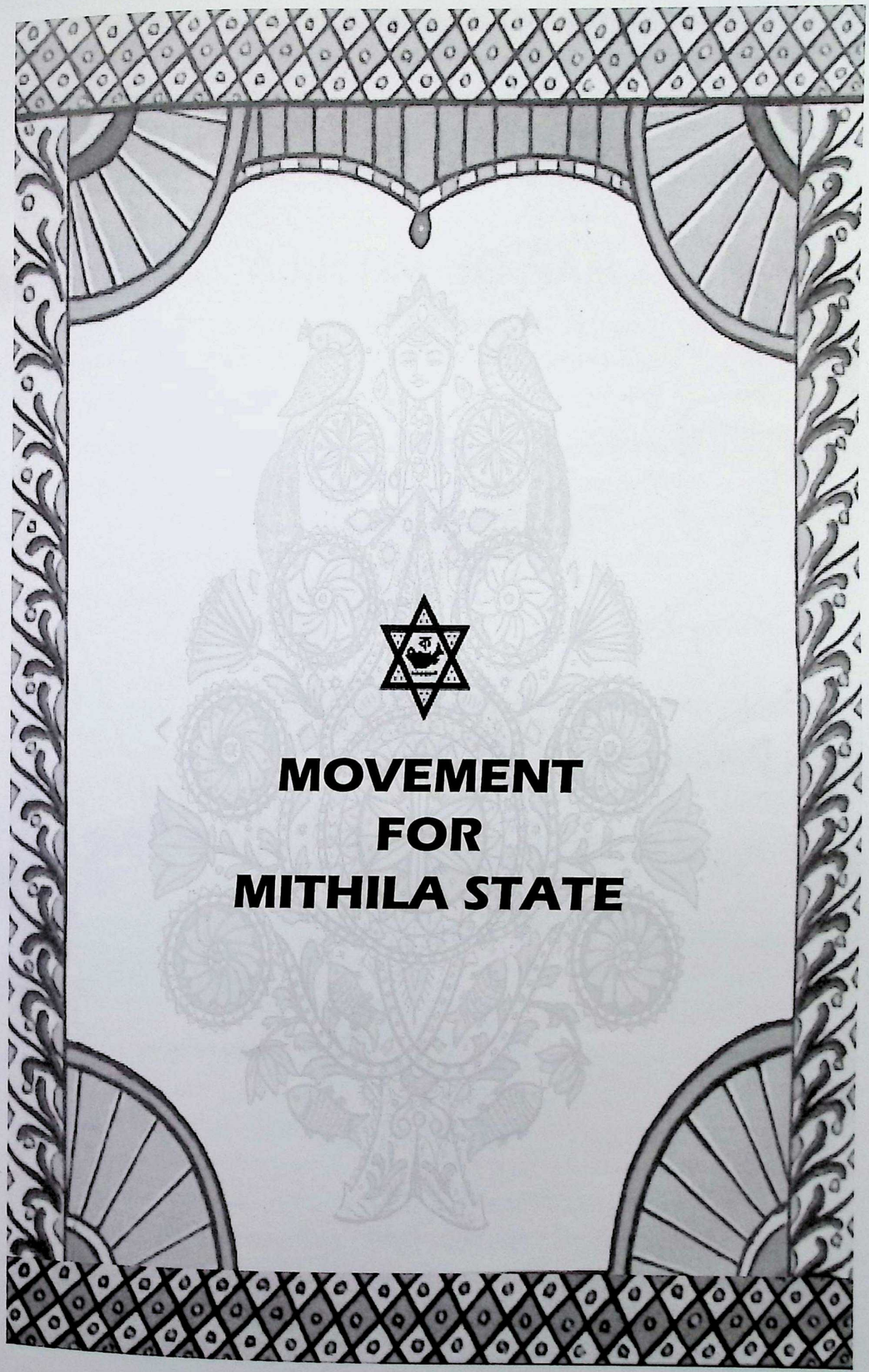

MOVEMENT FOR MITHILA STATE

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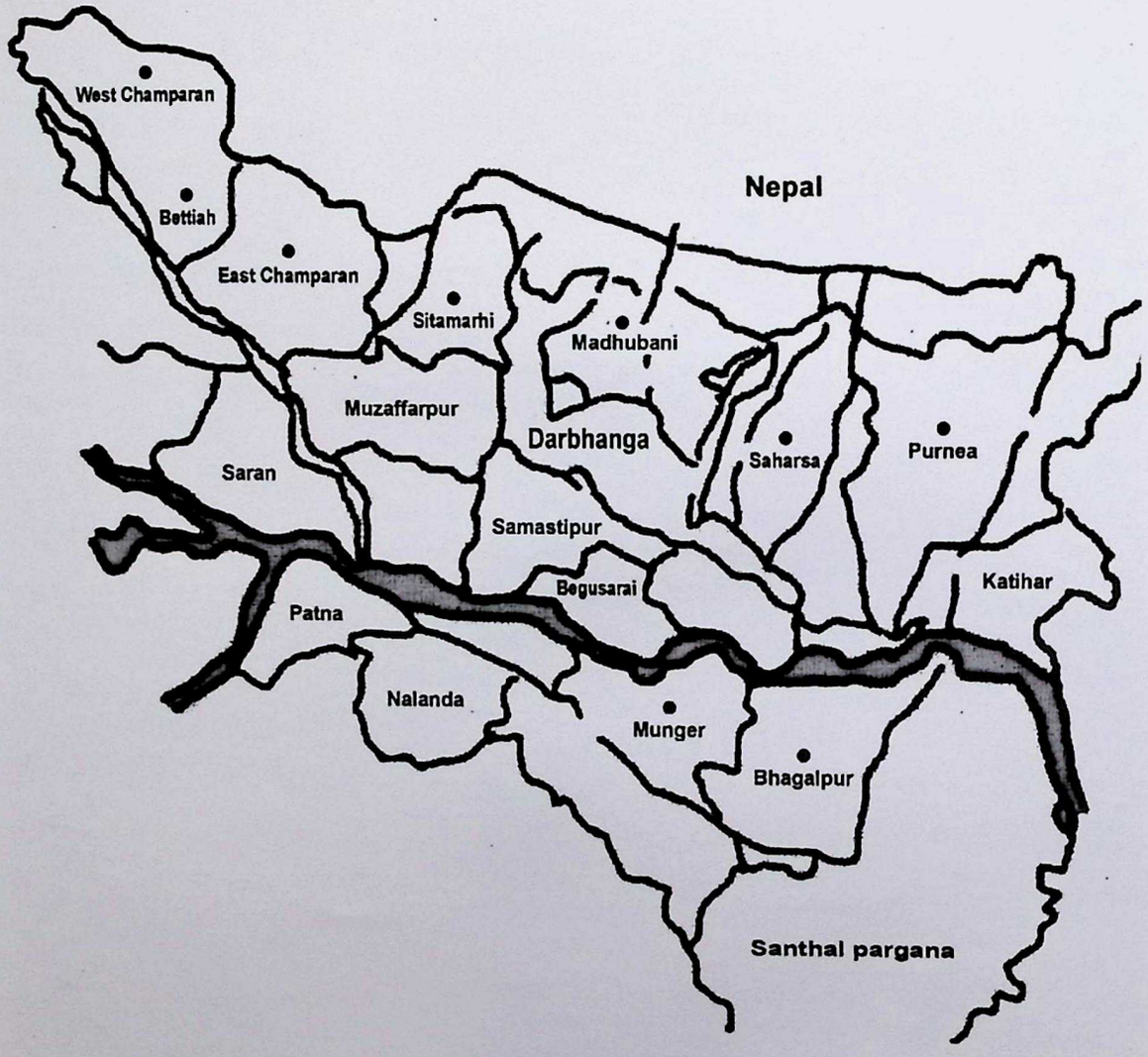
MAP OF MITHILA



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मैथिल महासभा क 27 अधिवेशन में श्री 5 मान् मिथिलेश क भाषण

सीतामढ़ी, 22, 23-4-38 ई॰

जनकस्य तपस्सार-सम्भूतां देवतानुताम्।
जगतो जननीं सीतां नतोऽहं रामवल्लभाम्॥

मैथिल बन्धुगण!

सर्वप्रथम हम अपन ई कर्तव्य बुझैत छी जे सभाक दिश सँ स्वागताध्यक्ष तथा स्वागत समितिक सदस्य लोकनि कैँ धन्यवाद दियैन्ह। ई हिनका लोकनिक अदम्य उत्साहक फल थीक जे एहि प्राचीन गौरवपूर्ण प्रान्त में हमरा लोकनिक एकत्र होएब सम्भव भेल अछि।

महासभाक गताधिवेशन सँ लय क आइ पर्यन्त हमरा लोकनिक समाज अनेक नर-रत्न सँ विहीन भय गेल अछि। बनैली राज्यधिपति राजा कीर्त्यानन्द सिंह बहादुर जे हमरा लोकनिक समाजक एक प्रधान स्तम्भ छलाह आइ एहि संसार मे नहिं छथि। महामहोपाध्याय पं॰ मुकुन्द झा वक्शी, जनिक प्रगाढ़ विद्वता से देश-देशान्तर चकित छल, हमरा देशक प्रसिद्ध ज्योतिषी गंगाधर झा काल- कवलित भय गेलाह। बेतियाक पं॰ त्रिलोचन झा जनिक समाज-प्रेम अदम्य छलैन्ह आइ हमरा लोकनिक बीच में नहिं छथि। बाबू सुरेन्द्रनाथ दास वकील अत्यन्त अल्प अवस्था में अपन लीला संवरण कय समाजक आशा पर पानि फेरि देलैन्ह। समाज हिनका लोकनिक निधन सँ शोकाकुल अछि और परमेश्वर सँ प्रार्थना करैत अछि जे ओ हिनका लोकनिक आत्मा कैँ सद्गति प्रदान करथुन्ह।

ई मानय पड़त जे मैथिल महासभा मैथिलक सामाजिक संस्था रहनहु आधुनिक समय में जाहि प्रकारें मैथिल-समाज कैँ लाभ पहुचैबाक आवश्यकता छैक ताहि तरहें लाभ नहिं पहुँचा रहल अछि।

हमरा जनैत एकर प्रधान कारण छैक जे एहि संस्था कैँ समाज सँ जाहि प्रकारक सहयोगक प्रयोजन छैक से नहिं भेटि रहल छैक।

बहुत गोटेक ई धारणा छैन्ह जे 'मैथिल महासभा सँ की हैत?- मैथिल महासभा की करत?- की कय सकैत अछि?" इत्यादि। परन्तु जखन हमरा लोकनिक विचार-धारा एहि प्रकारें प्रवाहित होइत अछि तखन हमरा लोकनि बिसरि जाइत छी जे "मैथिल महासभा वस्तु कोन थीक?"

मैथिल महासभा तँ समस्त मैथिल समाजक संस्था थीक। एकर सार्थकता और उपयोगिता ओही परिमाणें बढ़ि और घटि सकैत छैक जाहि परिमाणे मैथिल लोकनिक सहयोग ओकरा प्राप्त होयतैक। अतएव जखन हमरा लोकनि मैथिल महासभा पर अकर्मण्यताक लांछना लगबैत छियैक, अनुपयोगिताक कलंक आरोपित करैत छियैक तखन ई बुझक चाही जे हमरा लोकनि ओ सब दोष अपनहि ऊपर लैत छी। मैथिल महासभाक भविष्य हमरा लोकनिक अपन आचरण पर निर्भर अछि। आरम्भ मे मनुष्य संस्था कैँ बनबैत अछि; संस्था मनुष्यकैँ नहिं। संस्था मनुष्य कैँ बनैव प्रारम्भ तखन करैत अछि जखन ओ जड़ि पकड़ि लैत अछि। परन्तु मनुष्यक हाथ संस्थाक सम्बन्ध मे उपरे रहैत छैक और जखन चाहे, मनुष्य संस्था कैँ नाश कय सकैत अछि। प्रत्येक संस्था कोनो ने कोनो उद्देश्यक पूर्ति करबाक हेतु सम्मिलित चेष्टा लै मनुष्य समुदाय द्वारा स्थापित होइत अछि। अतएव यावत मनुष्य

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समुदाय उद्देश्य पूर्तिक हेतु कार्यशील नहिं हैत, संगठित नहिं हैत, वैयक्तिक विचार वा कार्यक अपेक्षा सामूहिक विचार वा कार्य कैँ उच्चहिं मानत, तावत् अपन उद्देश्यक पूर्ति नहिं कय सकैत अछि और ने संस्थेक सार्थकता स्थापित भय सकैत छैक। आइ हम समवेत मैथिल मण्डली सँ पूछैत छी जे मैथिल महासभा कैँ जीवित जाग्रत बनैबा ले कतबा योगदान प्रत्येक व्यक्ति देने छी और ततबा फल आइ देखि रहल छी वा नहि? आइ जाहि जाहि त्रुटिक अनुभव हमरा लोकनि कय रहल छी से त्रुटि हमरा लोकनिक अपन थीक वा नहिं?-कालि्ह, मैथिल महासभाक स्वरूप, एकर उपयोगिता, एकर गौरव, आशातीत बढ़ि सकैत छैक यदि मैथिल समाज कैँ से अभिलाषा होइक। क्यो एक व्यक्ति एकरा उन्नत नहिं बना सकैत अछि यावत् समस्त मैथिल समाज एकरा उन्नत बनैबा में योगदान नहिं देतैक।

हम इहो अनुभव करैत छी जे एहि संस्थाक कार्य सुचारु रूपें तावत् नहिं चलि सकैत अछि याबत् वर्षक तीन सौ साठियो दिन एकर पदाधिकारी एकर उद्देश्य पूर्ति लै तल्लीन नहिं रहताह। ताहि कारणें हम ई आवश्यक बुझैत छी जे अहाँ लोकनि सँ आग्रह करी जे अहाँ लोकनि प्रत्येक वर्ष एक एहन उपसभापति निर्वाचित करी जे अहर्निश महासभाक कार्य करथि। हम ई प्रस्ताव एही करणें अहाँ लोकनिक समक्ष रखैत छी जे हमरा ऊपर अन्यान्य कार्यक एतेक भार आबि गेल अछि जे मैथिल महासभाक कार्य केवल हमरहि ऊपर निर्भर रहने ओहि प्रकारें नहिं चलि सकैत अछि, जाहि प्रकारें चलबाक वर्तमान समय में आवश्यकता छैक। हम जाहि रूपक सहायता और सहयोग एहि संस्था कैँ दैत आयल छी ताहि में अन्तर हयबाक आशंका अहाँ लोकनि जुनि करैत जाइ। तैं हमरा विचारें कार्य भार हमरा सँ अतिरिक्त एक एहनो व्यक्ति कैँ देब उचित जे एकमात्र एही लक्ष्य कैँ आगाँ राखि निरन्तर कार्य करै। हम एहि संस्था कें उन्नत देखय चाहैत छी। वर्तमान युगक घोड़दौड़ में मैथिल समाज के पछुआइत देखि हमरा दु:ख होइत अछि। आशा करै छी जे अहाँ लोकनि हमर तात्पर्य कैँ यथार्थ रूपें बुझने हैव और एहि सम्बन्ध में कोनो प्रकारक मिथ्या धारणा अहाँ लोकनिक मन में नहि हैत।

हम चाहैत छी जे प्रत्येक मैथिल ई अनुभव करथि जे ई महासभा हुनके थिकैन्ह और हुनक सामाजिक और आर्थिक उन्नति एहि संस्था द्वारा बहुत किछु भय सकैत छैन्ह। वर्तमान युग संघर्षक युग थिकैक। नाना प्रकारक नवीन प्रश्न नित्य उपस्थित होइत छैक। ओहि प्रश्न सब सँ मैथिल-समाजक सम्बन्ध कोनो आन समाज सँ कम नहि छैक। परन्तु मैथिल समाज ओहि संघर्ष में तावत सफलता नहि प्राप्त कय सकैत अछि, मैथिल समाज के तावत्काल तक आत्मविश्वास और निर्भीकताक अभाव रहतैक, मैथिल समाज कें तावत अपन उपयुक्त स्थान नहि भेटि सकैत छैक यावत ओ संगठित नहि हैत। संगठन एहि युगक मूल मंत्र थिकैक। अतएव हम ओहि मूल मंत्रक अनुष्ठान करबा लै अहाँ लोकनि कैँ आह्वान करैत छी। मैथिल समाजक जेहन संस्कार छैक, मैथिल समाज के जे सब साधन उपलब्ध छैक, मैथिल समाजक ..... समस्त भारत वर्षमे जे ऐतिहासिक स्थान छैक ताहि सँ हमरा कनेको सन्देह नहि होइत अछि जे मैथिल महासभा नामक मैथिल समाजक संस्था वर्तमानो समय मे गौरवपूर्ण भय सकैत अछि। परन्तु प्रश्न अछि जे की हमरा लोकनि एकरा अपनायब? की हमरा लोकनि एहि दिस दत्तचित हैब? आशा अछि, अपन ध्येय दिश मैथिल समाज जँ अग्रसर होएब तँ जगदम्बा जानकी क अनुकम्पा अवश्य बल पहुँचाओत।

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THE TELEGRAM SENT TO THE SECRETARY, CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA, NEW DELHI ON 12.7.47 FROM DARBHANGA AND CONFIRMED BY POST ON 29.7.47 FROM DELHI.

Secretary
Constituent Assembly of India
New Delhi

Mithila comprising over 10 millions of Maithili speaking people in the contiguous districts of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Monghyr, Purnea, Santhal Pargannas and Champaran, is linguistically, historically, economically, socially and culturally a homogenous tract. The present province of Bihar is simply an administrative unit consisting of three distinct linguistic areas. Mithila in the HIndu period had developed its own law, known as the Mithila School of Hindu Law, its own philosophy, its own language and literature which can be traced to as far back as the eighth century A.D., its own arts, crafts, social customs and traditions, its own script named Tirhuta and had spread its cultural influence in the adjoining parts. The cultural progress continued even during Mahomedan rule and it was only during British rule that this part of the country was presumably for administrative purposes attached to other parts and its cultural progress was checked. In view of the fact that the Indian Nation has gained political power and in accordance with its repeated resolutions is going to constitute provinces on linguistic basis we place our claim for a separate province on those accepted principles and earnestly request the members of the sub-Committee and the Constituent Assembly to examine our claim along with those of the other parts of India similarly situated.

We feel that unless this part is allowed to live its own life unhampered by the other parts of the province our self development and self expression will be greatly stiffled. A resolution for separate province has already been passed by a large gathering assembled under the auspices of the Maithila Mahasabha. The Movement has received support from different parts and a central committee for this purpose called Mithila Mandal Central Committee has been constituted. Its deputation will shortly wait on the President and members of the Constituent Assembly to explain the position.

Ganganand Sinha
President
Mithila Mandal Central Committee

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DARBHANGA HOUSE
NEW DELHI

THE 30TH JULY'47

My dear Mishraji,

I had the pleasure of receiving your confidential letter dated the 20th instant on the 23rd. The Provincial Constitution Committee had submitted its report on the 27th June'47, and that report was considered by the Assembly clause by clause since the 14th July'47. Certain clauses of the Committee's report have been held over for further consideration. The general structure of the report is based on the Government of India Act, 1935. Certain provisions have been included from the American and the Australian Constitutions. In that structure there is no place for the kind of thing you suggest. But till the accepted principles are put to final shape and considered by the Assembly in October, there is still, I think, scope for the consideration of the matter mentioned by you. For this purpose the approval of the Congress High Command is absolutely essential. His Highness has started taking preliminary steps in that direction. I think you should keep ready a memorandum embodying your suggestions and copies of relevant documents to support them. The opinion shall have to be taken as to how the matter could be brought within the frame work of the Indian Constitution, because this is a matter with respect to which constitutional difficulties cannot easily be solved. As the discussion on the report of the Provincial Constitution Committee was almost finished by the time your letter reached me, it was too late to think of doing anything at that stage.The form of Government in the Provinces has been outlined as follows :-

"The Provincial Executive will consist of a Governor to be elected directly by the people on the basis of adult suffrage. He will hold office for 4 years, and can be re-elected only once. He will act according to the advice of a Council of Ministers except in so far as he is under the constitution required to exercise his functions in his discretion. The Ministers will be chosen by the Governor. There will be a Provincial Legislature which will deal with the matters defined in the Provincial and concurrent lists. It has been left to the Provincial Premiers to advise about the desirability of setting up a second chamber in their respective Provinces.

You will thus see that the new constitution is simply based on the Government of India Act, 1935, and there is very little scope for the establishment of self-governing institutions in the villages themselves. One thing, however, is certain and it is that if the voice of the general mass of the people is successfully harnessed nothing is impossible.I personally think that if Mithila is made into a separate Province, Raj can do a lot. I am writing about it in detail to Pt.Surendra Jha, Editor, of the 'Mithila Mihir'.

More in my next.

Yours sincerely,
Sd/- G. Sinha

To
Pt. Girindramohan Mishra
Assistant Manager, Raj Darbhanga
Darbhanga

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DARBHANGA,
The 5th August, 1947

RAJ DARBHANGA

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Kumar Saheb,

Many thanks for your letter of the 30th July, 1947. I realise the difficulties in getting a place for the thing that I have suggested in the provincial structure. What I thought is this. That steps are being taken by the Provincial Legislature to have some sort of self-governing institutions in the villages. The village Punchayat Raj Bill that has been introduced in the Assembly seeks to confer practically large powers on the village punchayat. The village punchayat is sought to be given even the power of taxation, of course, for their local matters. They would be given some judicial powers as well. If it is within the competence of the Provincial Legislature to give some powers like this to the village punchayata. More extensive powers can as well be given to these village punchayats. If such powers could be given to an institution of a village similar or more extensive powers can very well be given to a Union of such village punchayats which will be representative of the village punchayats of a large number of villages. The powers given to this village union may be such as would be exercisable in relation to matters of common interest to the group of villages. The matter no doubt may be little complicated but what I mean to say is that granting of such powers of self-government to a homogenous part of the country on the basis of some common thing cannot be ruled out altogether. It is in this view of the thing that the case of this part of the country to be created as a sub-province on the ground of separate language and culture under, of course, the provincial administration is not an unreasonable proposition. I should personally think that to agitate at the present stage for altogether a separate province would not be expedient or judicious. The reasons are obvious. They need not be discussed at length. From all point of view, I think, it is desirable that stress should be laid upon the cultural and linguistic unit of a sub-province only.This will be easy to work, and I think it is not very difficult or impossible to achieve in as much as it does not militate against any idea of provincial unity; on the other hand one can argue that the strengthening of such units on the basis of language and culture would strengthen the provincial administration.

With regard to the memorandum I have drafted one on the lines of memorial which was presented years ago and other materials that were available. This is only a tentative draft. It has to be couched in a better language and probably may have to be amplified. I am sending to yu a copy of this tentative draft for your perusal. You may also consult

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H.H. in this connection. You are perfectly right that the people's support in a matter like this is of immense value and nothing is impossible if any project is looked by the people's support. It is, therefore, necessary that we have to take all round measures to enlist this support as well. At the present moment when there is an incessant demand of constructive work all over the country we can play a very good part. In the copy of the draft memorandum which I am enclosing herewith you will find that in the concluding portion I attempted to give a quotation from a book which is of some importance. This book is probably at Anandbagh palace. The particular passage which I wanted to quote was read out to me by H.H. himself. The passage is from a book written by a European.

More in my next.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
Girindramohan Mishra

Kumar G.N.Sinha, M.L.C.
7, Mansingh Road
New Delhi

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THE NOTICE OF AMENDMENT GIVEN BY THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF DARBHANGA ON THE 24TH AUGUST 1947 AND REPEATED ON THE 25TH AUGUST 1947

Darbhanga House
New Delhi
(24th) 26th August, 1947

To
The Secretary
Constituent Assembly of India
Council House, New Delhi

Sir,

I beg to give notice of the following amendment to the motion by the Hon'ble Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, regarding the consideration of the report of the principles of the Union Constitution namely :-

That in item 1 of Schedule I for the word "Bihar" the words :

Mithila
Magadh and Bhojpur } as sub-provinces of Bihar
Jharkhand

be substituted.

Kameshwara Singh
Member
Constituent Assembly of India
Council House
New Delhi.

(This proposed amendment was not taken up in the August 1947 session. The notice was given by the Maharaja when some other members had served notice on formation of states namely Madras and Chhota Nagpur.)

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THE SPEECH OF THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF DARBHANGA IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

Mr. President,

I move :

"That in item 1 of schedule I for the word 'Bihar' the words :

Mithila
Magadha and Bhojpur } as sub-provinces of Bihar.
Jharkhand

Be substituted".

1. Like several other Provinces the present province of Bihar also is not homogeneous either linguistically or culturally. If we exclude the Chotanagpur Division of the Province about which my honourable friend Mr. Jaipal Singh, will throw light, we shall be left with three distinct linguistic areas namely, Maithili speaking, Magahi speaking and Bhojpuri speaking. Perusal of the reports of the linguistic survey of India, by the late Dr. Grierson will give the exact extent of such areas within the province of Bihar. Perhaps this is not realised today when owing to the amalgamation of these regions for administrative reasons, which has now continued for a long time, Bihar is considered to be a homogeneous tract with Hindi as its language. Well, Hindi is our national language and the whole of Bihar knows it; but the fact remains that it is the mother-tongue of none in Bihar. Mother-tongue has so much bearing on cultural and social aspects of life that it indicates the distinctive traits of the body of people who use it. Irrespective of caste, creed or community to which individuals belong, the common mother-tongue establishes between those who speak it, an imperceptible bond which is not easily severable. That is at the root of the demand for linguistic provinces.

2. So far as Bihar is concerned I am chiefly concerned with the Maithili speaking area which today roughly comprises the districts of Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur, Monghyr, Purnea, Santal Parganas and part of Champaran. In the Hindu period Mithila was a separate kingdom. It had developed its own law known as the Mithila School of Hindu Law. Its language is distinct from other modern languages and its literature has continually grown since the eighth century onwards. It has its own arts, crafts, social customs and traditions. It has its own script named Trirhuta. Its political boundaries have varied from time to time owing to political reasons; but until the advent of the British rule its internal structure remained intact and it never ceased to spread its cultural influence in the adjoining territories. In the rest of India it, in fact, established for itself place of honour which may be said to be enviable. Though to a large extent subdued, the linguistic and cultural affinity of the area I have mentioned is even today very marked.

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3. The claim of Mithila for separate existence is as strong as that of Orissa, Assam, Sind or for the matter of that of any other area claiming separate existence on linguistic or cultural basis. The Indian National Congress having accepted the principle of the formation of province on linguistic basis I have ventured to put forward the claim of Mithila for its separate existence. So far as I have been able to gather, a great majority of the inhabitants of the Maithili speaking tract, irrespective of caste, creed or community, feel that by being attached to other areas their self-development and self-expression have been and are being greatly stifled. Naturally, they have made the demand for being allowed to live their own life, form a society most suited for the growth of their genius and tradition so that they may play a more effective role in shaping the destiny of India along with other provinces. They still cherish the memories of Janaka, Yajnavalkya, Vidyapati, Vachaspati Mishra, Gangesh Upadhyaya and numerous other celebrities, who have left indelible mark of their greatness in the history of this country, and long to have similar opportunities for unhampered growth of their abilities.

4. I do not, however, wish to impair the political integrity of the Province of Bihar. Although I feel sure that Mithila can be economically self-sufficient, it will require elaborate investigation to determine the question. Taking hint from the informative memorandum circulated to us by the constitutional Adviser of this Assembly I seek at present to lay claim for constituting Mithila as a sub-province with autonomous administrative powers so that its inhabitants may develop their own life, material resources, language, culture and tradition and secure for themselves adequate representation in the various administrative machinery of the country. They do not desire to live in isolation. They simply want to be free from domination in the matter of their internal growth.

5. If Mithila and Jharkhand are separated as sub-provinces, the remaining portion will comprise the Maghi and Bhojpuri speaking areas and that is why I have worded my resolution as I have. I hope the House will have no difficulty in accepting it.

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Darbhanga,
The 20th August, 1947

RAJ DARBHANGA

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Kumar Saheb,

I was to leave this place for Delhi tomorrow but as Mr. Danby goes to Calcutta on the 27th and proposes to go to Delhi from there on the 30th he has asked me to postpone my going to Delhi till he returns. I shall be, therefore, able to leave for Delhi not before the first week of the next month unless I am otherwise required there. Does the Constituent Assembly adjourn after a week? If it does when does it sit again?

From the newspapers it appears that the Constituent Assembly is dealing at present with the Constitution of the provinces. I believe the Provincial Constitution Committee have not yet finished their deliberations and have not submitted their reports. I dont know if anything still can be done particularly for estates like Raj Darbhanga. To me, it appears that it is not impossible to make out some case for the Raj. In the first place even some states such as States of Orissa have got a place even in the Provincial Government. If there is ample scope for the existence of different sub-provinces within the province there is also scope for small states being within the province. Necessary provisions will, therefore, be made for such states being within the Provincial Government. I am not aware if such provisions would be made in the Constitution Act generally relating to all provinces or whether particular province would be specifically given powers to have the constitution on these lines. The province of Bihar at present has no such state within itself. Would it not be possible to provide for bringing into existence such states in future? We do not know exactly what form the component parts of any Provincial Government would ultimately assume but presumably there will be ample scope within a province to develop any form of Government. For instance, there is very likelihood of the Provincial Government taking measures to establish self-governing institutions in the villages themselves. Each village is likely to be a sort of village repulic and a group of such village republics may be constituted into a Union with its own executives and so on. In the context of these possibilities is it not possible also to allow an estate like the Raj to develope into a state comprised of its villages having self-governing institutions on the line indicated above. To me, it seems that it would not be unreasonable to contend that if full freedom is given to the villages to develop themselves into full self-governing institutions subject to the control of the Union executives under the general control of the Provincial Government a state may be created comprising compact villages of the Raj which will be internally independent and will have their reprsentatives in the Provincial

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Legislature and even in the Provincial Cabinet. The only difference from the other villages of the province would be that the state will have its own executive head, whose powers will be limited and who would be only its constitutional head. In order to obviate other difficulties in the matter we might even concede the power of selecting the executive head of this estate of the Raj to be with the people themselves provided the selection is confined to the members of the present House.

I realise that much can be done in this direction by the people themselves and to have the general consent of the people we have to make proper efforts. If we proceed on the right lines and organise the villages on the lines suited to them and conducive to their well-being it is not difficult even at this stage to enlist the sympathy and support of the people. What is required at present is that if what we desire is not conceded by the Constituent Assembly at present should we not make the necessary effort to have the necessary provisions in the Constitution Act to be made use of by ourselves in future for such purposes. I admit that anything which is not done in the near future in this respect is not expected to be done at all. Dont you think that this is an occasion on which we should consult our friends and examine the position as to whether it is advisable to put up our case or should we have to give up the idea altogether.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
Girindramohan Misra

Kumar G. N. Sinha, M.A., M.L.C.
7, Mansingh Road
New Delhi

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Darbhanga House
New Delhi
The 24th August, 1947

CONFIDENCIAL

My dear Acharyaji,

Our letter of the 19th instant reached on the 22nd. Jai Hind to you. I have noticed that for the last two or three days copies of the Indian Nation addressed to His Highness and none to me. Evidently your despatcher is making mistake.

I have already sent my note about the Mithila province. His Highness is going to move about it in the constituent Assembly. Like others who want the division of Madras Presidency on linguistic basis, he has also given notice of an amendment. But let us see what happens. Probably it will be withdrawn after an assurance that the matter will be looked into by a commission to be appointed by the Government. But we are not sure of the position. The first three causes on the memorandum on the Indian Constitution make the position clear and I produce them for your information Please treat this as confidential.

I have noted with interest what you say about the political development in our province. I have shown the letter to His Highness. Let us see how things develop.

Hope you are well.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
G. Singh

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MEMO

Sjt. Rajendra Jha "Swatantra" reached here on 13.3.48 with instructions from the Mithila Mandal Central Committee to discuss the future line of action with me, to find out whether the telegram sent by me to the Secretary. Constituent Assembly of India, regarding the formation of Mithila into a separate province, had reached the Office or not and to secure copies of memorandum, if any, submitted to the Constituent Assembly for the formation of linguistic Provinces in other parts of India.

I have made enquiries and I am informed that my telegram as well as its confirmation by post were received in the office of the Constituent Assembly of India.

My enquiries further reveal that memorandums about the formation of linguistic provinces have been received only from Andhara and Kerala, and the memorandum from Andhara alone is of a comprehensive character. Swatantraji contacted Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramaiya (who is a prominent leader of the movement for the establishment of linguistic provinces throughout India and specially the movement for making Andhara a separate province) and had with him a number or interviews during which the details of the movement were discussed. Discussions with him revealed that the Andhara people whose claim for a separate province is now being conceded by the Government of India, proceeded on the same lines as those on which we are proceeding and have to face identical difficulties, Dr. Pattabhi, however, told Swatantraji that he had submitted the printed memorandum to the Government of Madras and not to the Government of India. In any case, I am trying to get a copy of the memorandum.

Our claim for the formation of a separate province should on based on the following:-

viz :- (1) homogenous linguistic areas (2) Geography
(3) Financial self-sufficiency (4) Political (5) Cultural.

So far as item No.1 is concerned, the report of the linguistic survey of India and Dr. Grierson's map will supply us with conclusive evidence. About item No. 2 also we have sample material in the shape of social customs, scripts, dress etc. We shall, therefore, have to collect material from Bihar (Government's Offices) to find out the financial position of the tract of land which is proposed to be separated. We shall have to find out under each existing head the amount which the Government get from that area and the amount which they spend in that area and the proportion which these figures bear to the population of the area. It will be by comparing such figures with similar figures of the other parts of the Province that we shall be able to build up our case. The possibilities of the Kosi project etc. shall also have to be taken into consideration in making out our case for self-sufficiency as well as financial and industrial soundness.

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This work should be finished as quickly as possible, so that we may be able to hold conferences before the Constituent Assembly meets in May. Provisionally, we may fix 15th April as the limit for the collection of materials, 30th April, as date by which the pamphlet containing our case for separation is printed and 15th May, as the date by which we may have a representative Conference, in which among other things, members of the deputation to approach the members of the Constituent Assembly, members of the Government of India, members of the Congress High Command as well as the members of the Linguistic Province Convention, may be elected.

The Maharajadhiraja has of course given notice of and amendment to divide Bihar into three linguistic Sub-provinces, one of which will be Mithila.

I have made notes of the provisions in the present and the future constitutions for the formation of new provinces. The essential condition is that the majority of the members representing the area to be separated should support the proposal. If the proposal is adopted by the provincial legislature, the case becomes irresistible. We shall, therefore, have to think of getting a sanction for this proposal from the electors at the time of the next elections. We cannot hope to get a favourable verdict from the Assembly so at present constituted.

Swantraji is going back (i) to arrange for the compilation of facts and figures for our pamphlet (ii) to arrange for the holding of representative meeting of Mithila Mandal in 'May' 48.

After the materials are collected I have undertaken to prepare the pamphlet. If the Mandal wishes to use my name in any appeal for fund, I shall have no objection to its doing so.

Kumar Gangananda Singh with Raja Radhika Raman Prasad of Surajpura

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ESTATE MANAGEMENT

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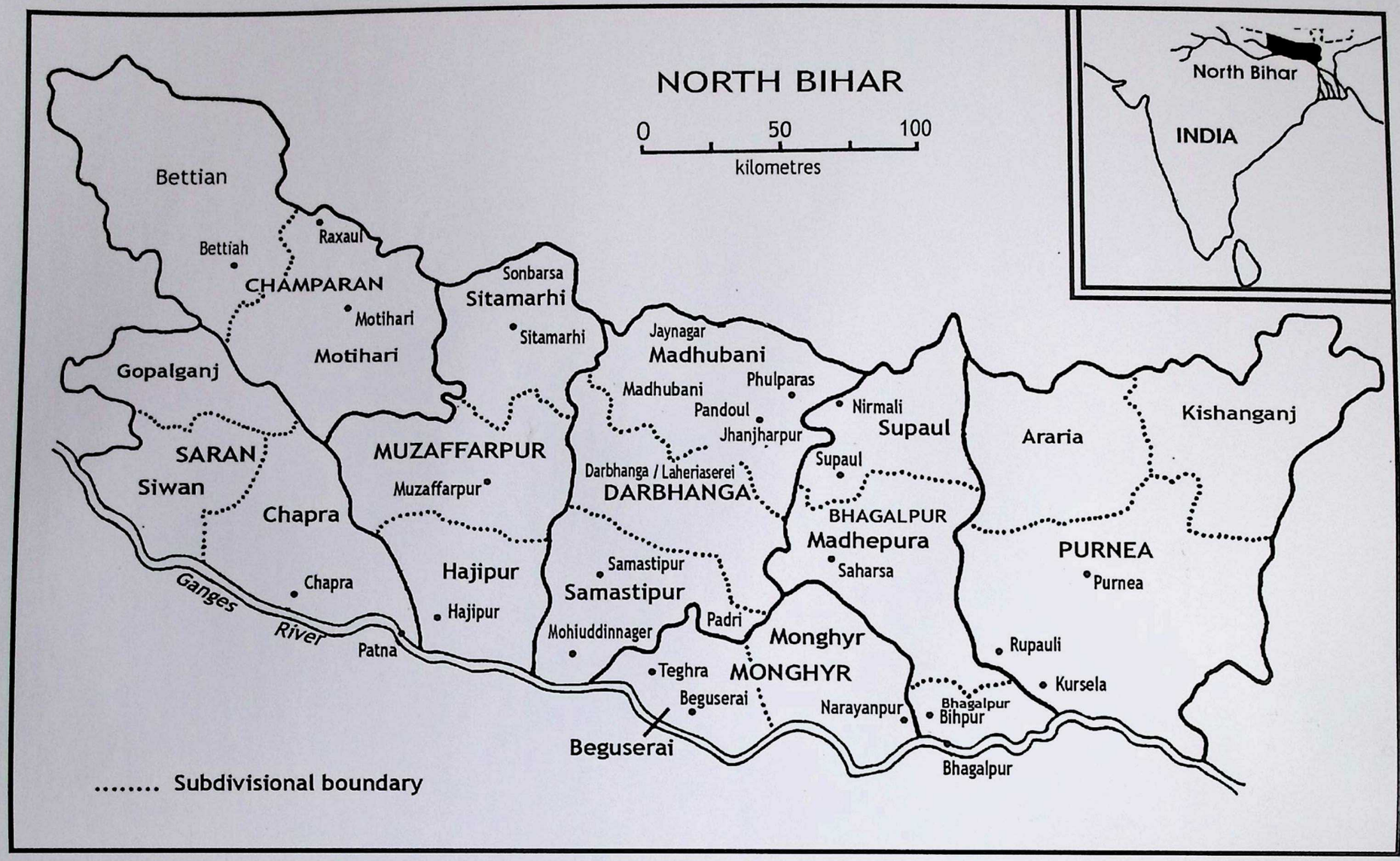

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EXPANSE OF ESTATE MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Personal Staff	- 11	Palace Office	- 3
Raj Secretariat	- 11		

DEPARTMENTS AT SECRETARIAT

General	- 38	Accounts	- 55
Audit	- 6	Revenue	- 25
Law	- 15	Treasury	- 8
Investment	- 9	Income Tax	- 4
English Record Room	- 6	Mahafizkhana	- 7
Development	- 2	Officers on leave	- 7

DEPARTMENTS AT HEADQUARTERS

Supply Board	- 8	Hospital	
		Doctors	- 23
		Nurses	- 4
		Staff	- 3
Engineering	- 18	Electric	- 5
Raj Press	- 8	Mithila Mihir Section	- 4
Library	- 5	Garden	- 2
Guest House	- 2	Motors	- 2
Stables & Goshala	- 5	Schools & Vidyalayas	
		Raj School	- 20
		Technical School	- 6
		Maharani Rameshwari Lata Vidyalaya	- 9
		Maheshwar Lata Vidyapith (Lohna)	- 8
		Rameshwari Sanskrit Vidyalaya (Kapileshwar)	- 2
Indian Nation Press (Patna)	- 8		

Agencies were at Allahabad, Varanasi, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Bhagalpur, Kamakhya, Kankhal (Saharanpur), Muzaffarpur, Patna, Purnea, Ranchi, Simla with Resident Agents posted at each location.

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CIRCLES

1. DARBHANGA

Headquarters	Darbhanga
District	-do-
Post Office	-do-
Telegraph Office	-do-
Nearest Rly. Station	-do- B & N.W.Rly
Distance from Station	1.5 miles
No. of Villages	378
No. of Staff	410

2. JHANJHARPUR

Headquarters	Jhanjharpur
District	Darbhanga
Post Office	Jhanjharpur
Telegraph Office	-do-
Nearest Rly. Station	-do- B & N.W.Rly
Distance from Station	0.5 mile
No. of Villages	279
No. of Staff	988

3. RAHIKA

Headquarters	Rahika
District	Darbhanga
Post Office	Rahika
Telegraph Office	Madhubani
Nearest Rly. Station	-do- B & N.W.Rly
Distance from Station	5 miles
No. of Villages	135
No. of Staff	784

4. PANDAUL

Headquarters	Pandaul
District	Darbhanga
Post Office	Pandaul
Telegraph Office	-do-
Nearest Rly. Station	-do- B & N.W.Rly
Distance from Station	2 miles
No. of Villages	95
No. of Staff	362

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5. ALAPUR

Headquarters	Ghoghardiha
District	Darbhanga
Post Office	Ghoghardiha
Telegraph Office	-do-
Nearest Rly. Station	-do- B & N.W.Rly
Distance from Station	1 mile
No. of Villages	378
No. of Staff	789

6. AHINS

Headquarters	Benipur
District	Darbhanga
Post Office	Bahera
Telegraph Office	-do-
Nearest Rly. Station	Sakri, B & N.W.Rly
Distance from Station	12 miles
No. of Villages	145
No. of Staff	402

7. HAYAGHAT

Headquarters	Hayaghat
District	Darbhanga
Post Office	Hayaghat Bilaspur
Telegraph Office	-do-
Nearest Rly. Station	-do- B & N.W.Rly
Distance from Station	0.5 mile
No. of Villages	227
No. of Staff	410

8. PADRI

Headquarters	Gajpatti
District	Darbhanga
Post Office	Hasanpur Sugar Mill
Telegraph Office	-do-
Nearest Rly. Station	Hasanpur Road, B & N.W.Rly
Distance from Station	5 miles
No. of Villages	75
No. of Staff	186

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9. NAREDIGAR

Headquarters	Nirmali
District	Bhagalpur
Post Office	Nirmali
Telegraph Office	-do-
Nearest Rly. Station	-do- B & N.W.Rly
Distance from Station	0.5 mile
No. of Villages	153
No. of Staff	611

10. NISHANKPUR

Headquarters	Shankarpur
District	Bhagalpur
Post Office	Shankarpur
Telegraph Office	Dauram Madhepura
Nearest Rly. Station	-do- B & N.W.Rly
Distance from Station	12 miles
No. of Villages	161
No. of Staff	338

11. GONDWARA

Headquarters	Korha
District	Purnea
Post Office	Korha
Telegraph Office	Karhagola Road
Nearest Rly. Station	-do- B & N.W.Rly
Distance from Station	10 miles
No. of Villages	284
No. of Staff	324

12. BIRNAGAR

Headquarters	Kajha
District	Purnea
Post Office	-do-
Telegraph Office	-do-
Nearest Rly. Station	Kirtyananda Nagar, E.B.Rly
Distance from Station	3 miles
No. of Villages	93
No. of Staff	463

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13. BHAWANIPUR

Headquarters	Bhawanipur
District	Purnea
Post Office	Bhawanipur-Rajdham
Telegraph Office	Purnea
Nearest Rly. Station	-do- E.B. Rly
Distance from Station	34 miles
No. of Villages	134
No. of Staff	172

14. PARIHAR

Headquarters	Parihar
District	Muzaffarpur
Post Office	Parihar
Telegraph Office	Sursand
Nearest Rly. Station	Bajpatti & Sitamarhi, B & N.W.Rly
Distance from Station	13 & 16 miles
No. of Villages	93
No. of Staff	457

15. KHARAGPUR

Headquarters	Kharagpur
District	Monghyr
Post Office	Haveli Kharagpur
Telegraph Office	Bariarpur
Nearest Rly. Station	Bariarpur, E.I.Rly. Loop Line
Distance from Station	12 miles
No. of Villages	70
No. of Staff	127

16. BANKURA

Headquarters	Bankura
District	-do- (Bengal)
Post Office	-do-
Telegraph Office	-do-
Nearest Rly. Station	-do- B & N.W.Rly
Distance from Station	0.5 mile
No. of Villages	621
No. of Staff	57

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17. GAYA

Headquarters	Gaya
District	-do-
Post Office	-do-
Telegraph Office	-do-
Nearest Rly. Station	-do- E. I. Rly
Distance from Station	1.5 miles
No. of Villages	248
No. of Staff	17

18. LAKSHMIPUR

Headquarters	Lakshmipur
District	Bhagalpur
Post Office	Baunsi
Telegraph Office	Bara Hat P.O. (M.C.Baunsi c/o Tahsildar Banka)
Nearest Rly. Station	Bhagalpur E.I. Rly
Distance from Station	32 miles
No. of Villages	928 (Civil 618, Santhal 310)
No. of Staff	213

Total No. of Villages	**4,497 (Civil 4187 & Santhal 310)**
Total No. of Staff	**7,110**

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GOVERNMENT HOUSE
RANCHI

26th June, 1936

My dear Sir Kameshwar,

On receipt of your letter of the 20th June I spoke to Sir Ganesh about filling Gerald Danby's place on the District Board, and he is quite ready to nominate any body sent up by Freston and Ansorge, so you can settle with them who would be the best substitue. Sir Ganesh is himself going to be in Patna from the 12th to the 22nd of July and hopes to meet you there for at least one day to discuss the affairs of Tirhut.

Will you let him know which day you can be in Patna ?

I am very sorry to hear that Babuji has been down with dengue and malaria. The change to Ranchi ought to do him good, as the climate now is very pleasant. The polo players are looking forward to him bringing his ponies with him.

I had half a dozen of the Zemindars of South Bihar here early this week and talked to them seriously about the necessity of remissions of rent where they had been commuted at too high a rate for present prices. I hope I made some impression – they were full of promises to do the right thing.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

James Sifton

James Sifton

The Honourable Sir Kameshwar Singh, K.C.I.E.
Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga

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Lord Wavell, Viceroy of India, and Sir Thomas Rtherford, Governor of Bihar, in Darbhanga, 1945

Lord Wavell, Viceroy of India with Maharajadhiraja, 1945

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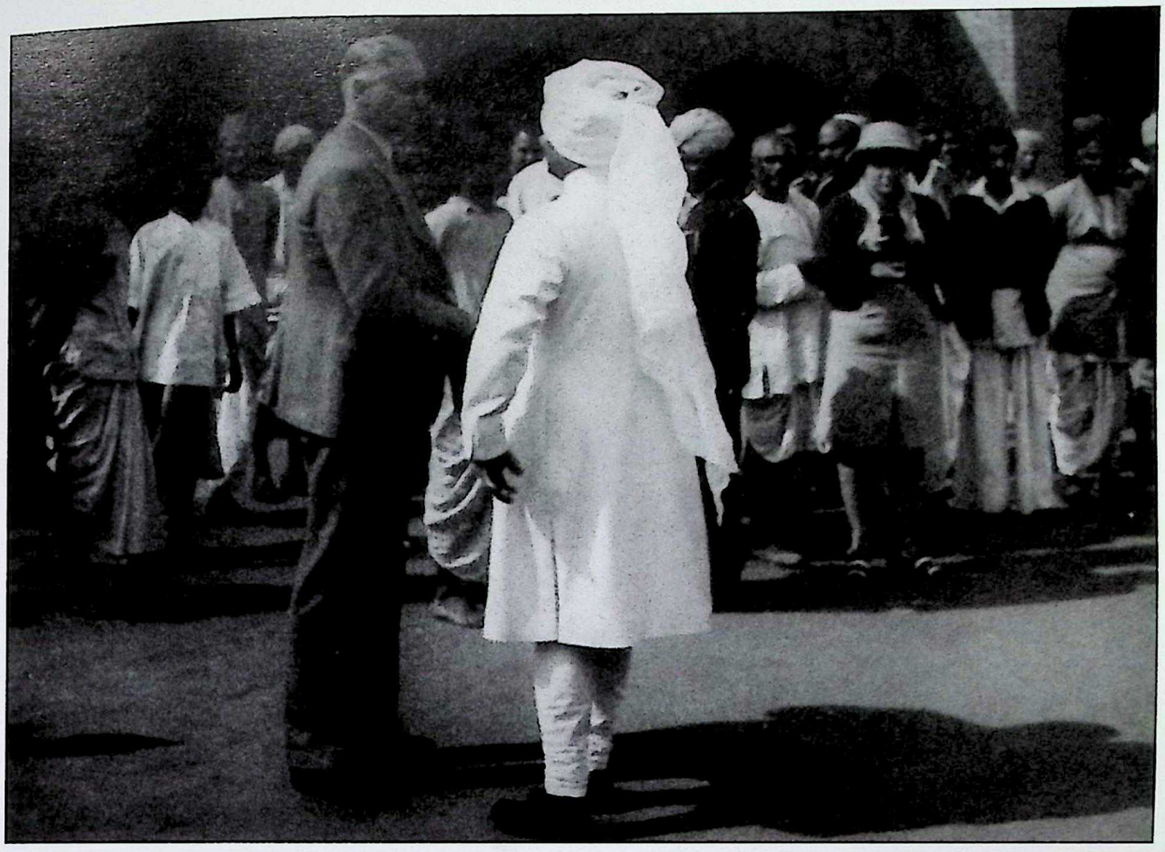

Maharajadhiraja welcoming his guest at the Palace grounds.

Maharajadhiraja attending an official function of the Government

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Head Office of the Darbhanga Raj

Mr. G.P.Danby, Chief Manager, Darbhanga Raj, in his office

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Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh
with Dr. Captain Bhavnath Jha, CMO Raj Darbhanga

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Lord Willingdon, Viceroy of India with Maharajadhiraja, 1935

Lord Willingdon, Viceroy of India with Maharajadhiraja at the Garden Party in Darbhanga, 1935

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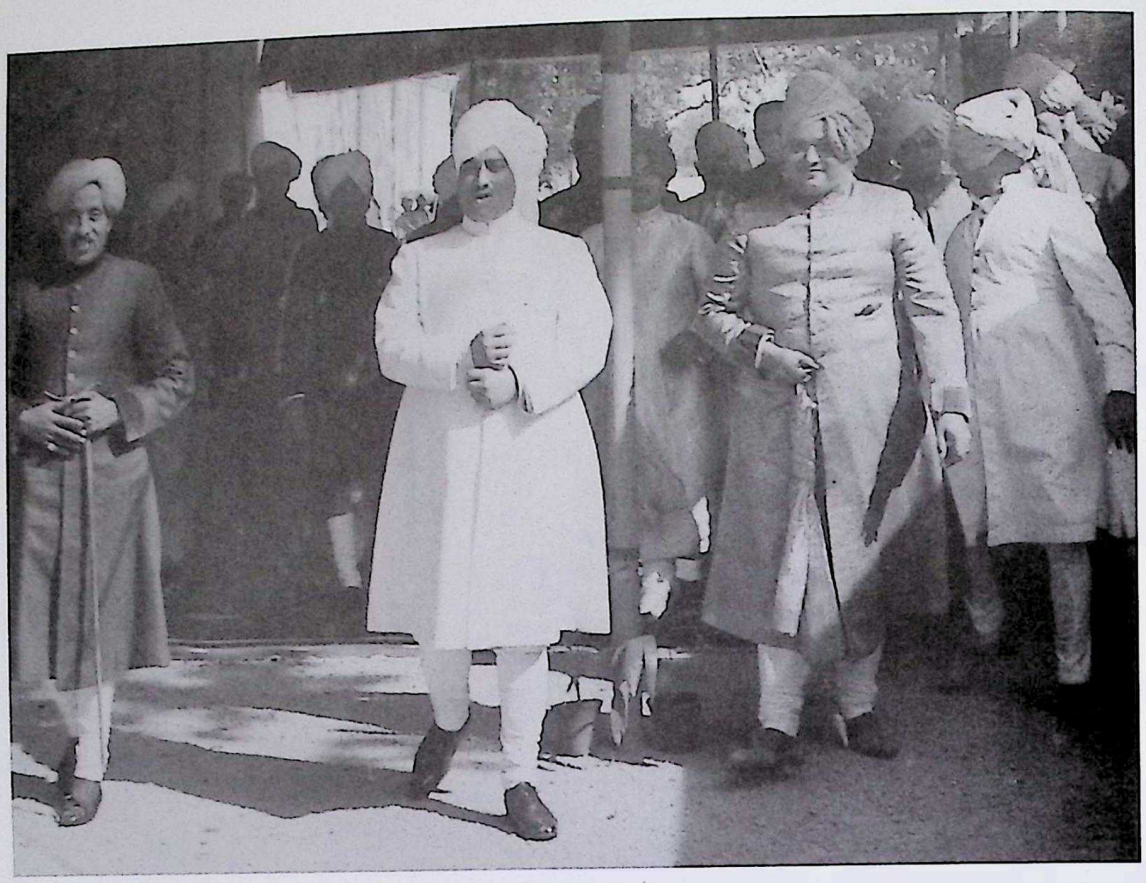
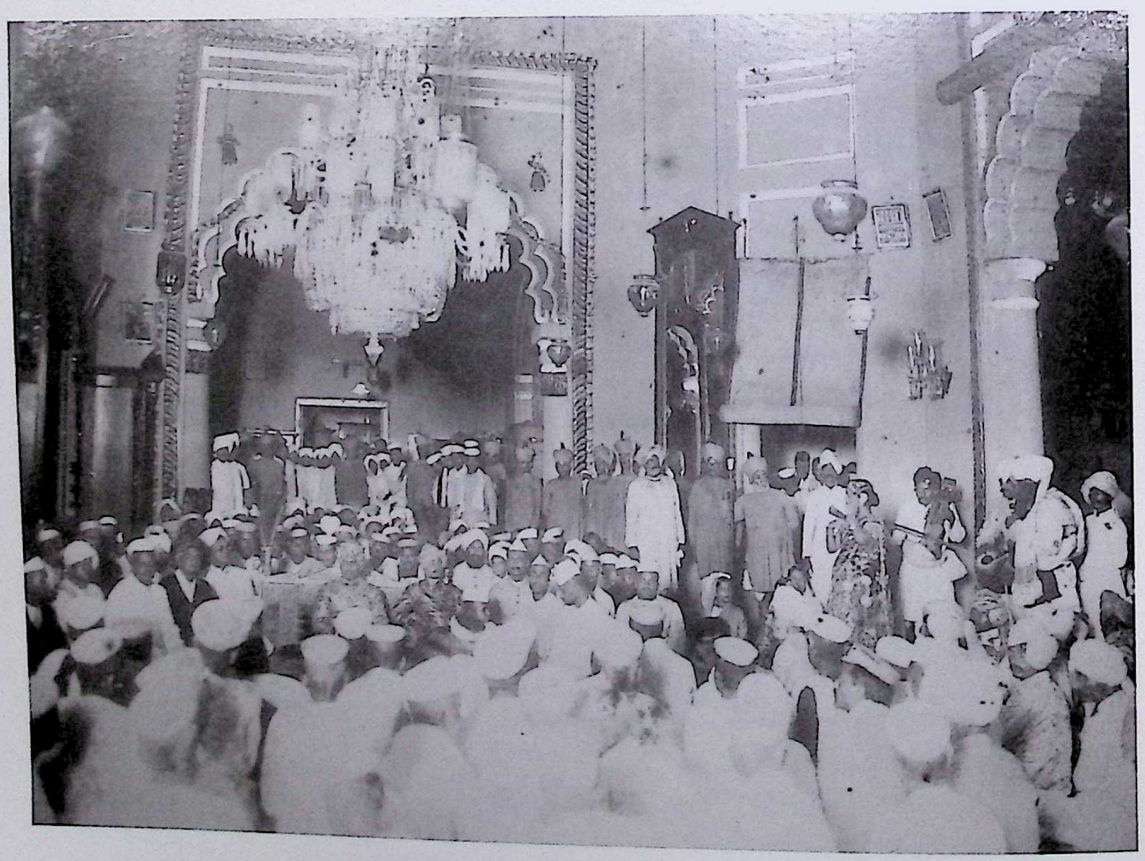


Maharajadhiraja (Centre) with Maharaja of Tripura (Left) and Maharana of Dholpur (Right)



Classical Music performance in the Darbar Hall, Anandbagh Palace, Darbhanga

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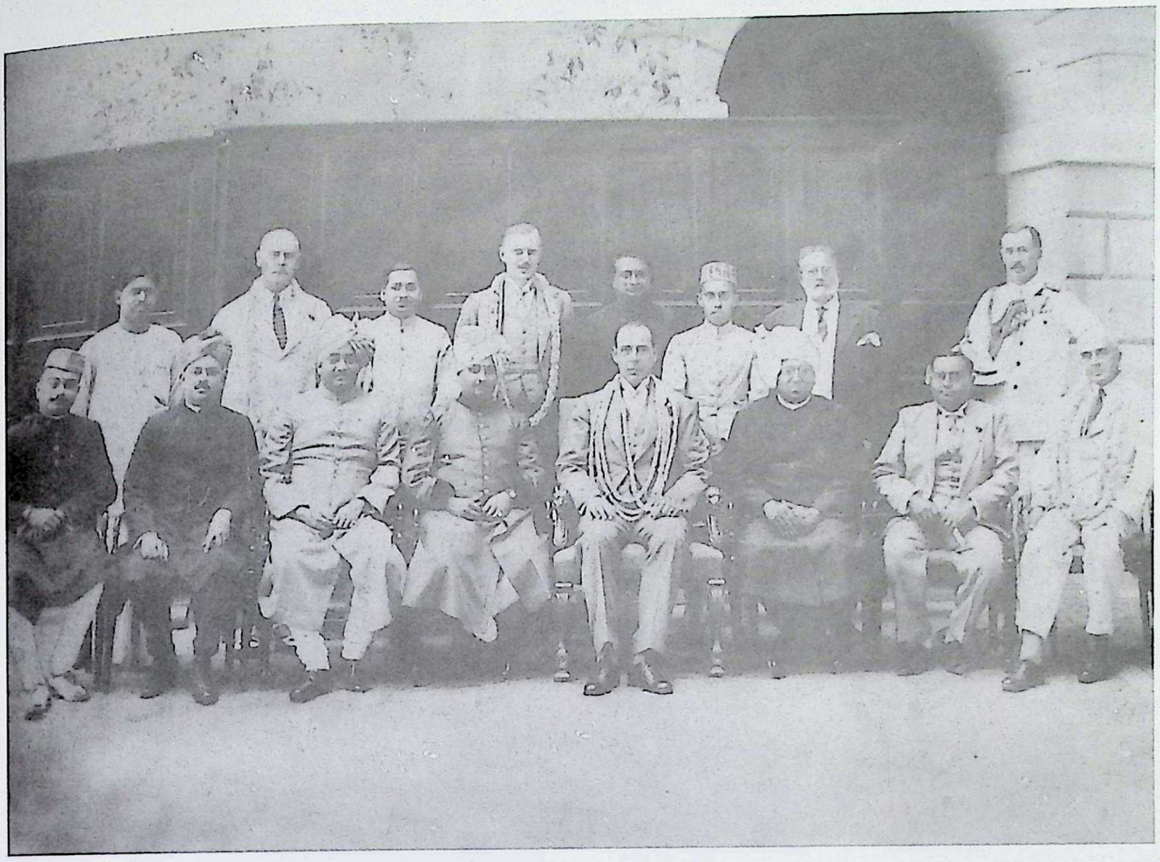

The Governor of Bihar with Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga and other Maharajas from Bihar

Maharajadhiraja welcoming Maharajkumar of Burdwan

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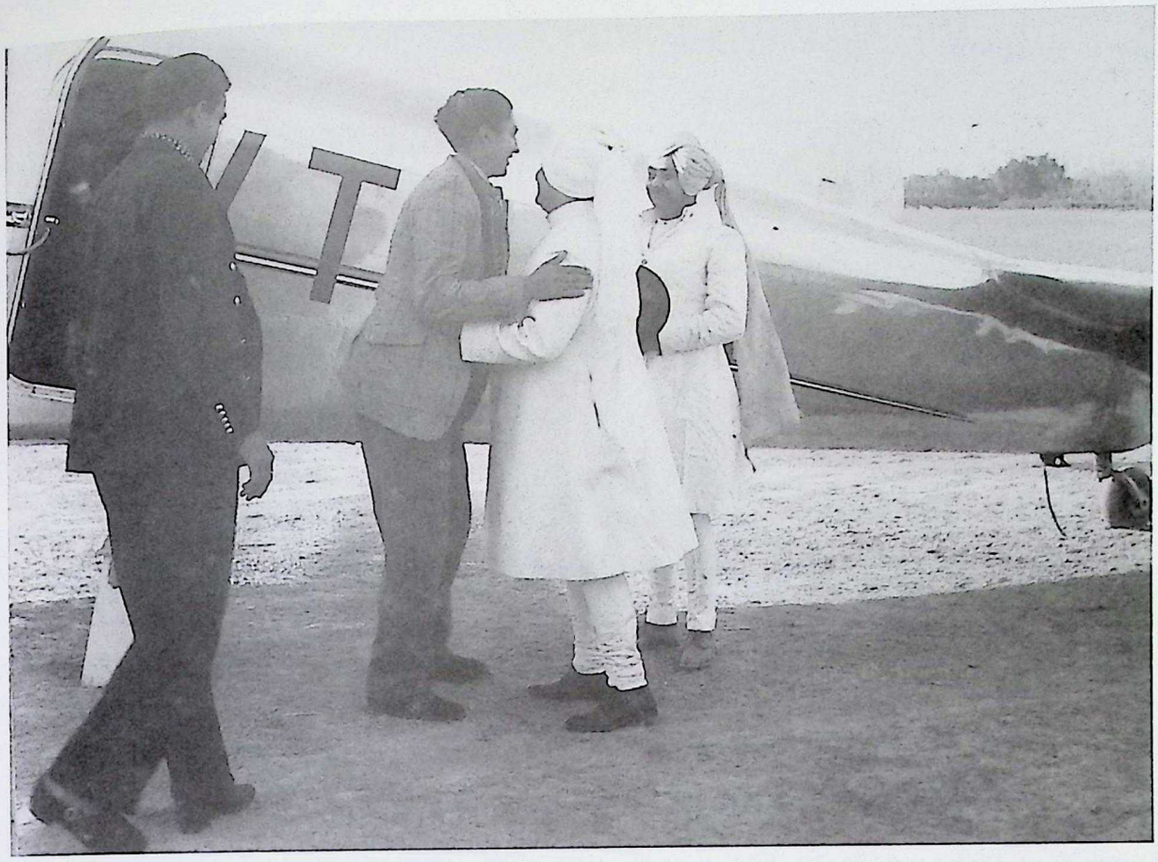

Maharajadhiraja wecoming Maharaja of Coochbehar

Maharajadhiraja Tribhuvan of Nepal with Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga

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THE ALL-INDIA LANDHOLDERS' CONFERENCE LUCKNOW

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS BY THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF DARBHANGA

8TH APRIL, 1939

Brother - delegates and friends

I am sure I am expressing the feelings of one and all of you present here when I say that we are profoundly grateful to the Reception Committee for all that they have done to convene the Conference and make us comfortable. They have made the best possible endeavour to see that the landholders of almost all the provinces of India are adequately represented in this gathering and to enable us to transact our business methodically. I have no doubt that on the conclusion of the labours of the Conference, they will have the satisfaction of having done something which may prove to be a landmark in the history of the landed interests in this country.

I am afraid I cannot describe in words what I feel on being called upon by you to preside over this conference. The trust and confidence which you have decided to repose in me, I greatly value. The responsibilities and obligations you have thrust on me are overwhelming; and believe me when I say that I would have found it impossible to shoulder them, had I not been assured of your unstinted support in the discharge of my duties. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

On the occasion of the Oudh Zamindars' Conference held here - at Lucknow - in May, 1938, I had indicated that the time was fast approaching when we should have a Federation of All-India Landholders so that we might, whenever necessary, take joint action in matters concerning the entire body of landlords. Since then the idea has been gathering support and I have been receiving numerous enquiries about it. It took some shape in December last when the matter was discussed by some of my friends - all prominent landlords who had come to Darbhanga from various provinces to consider the desirability of convening an All-India Conference for planning our action with respect to matters concerning the landholders in general. Under the chairmanship of the Maharaja of Mymensingh, they unanimously decided that a Conference of the landholders of all the provinces of India be held at Lucknow to inaugurate the All-India Federation of Landholders, and as a result of that decision, we have met here to-day.

It is sometimes argued - and with a good deal of force - that questions affecting land being provincial subjects under the new constitution, it will serve no useful purpose to

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have an all-India organisation of landholders. This argument, if accepted, cuts at the very root of the idea with which we have assembled here. The generally accepted view of the leading landlords, as expressed to me during the last few months, is that we need an all-India organisation to co-ordinate our activities, to present a united front and to counteract mischiefs that have their origin in organizations of all-India character and, in certain cases, of international character. I admit that so far as laws are concerned, we shall have to go to our provinces for the settlement of the issues. But that is not all. The time has come when the landholders themselves have to change their outlook and determine on a reorientation of their policy and programme of work in view of the changed condition of things, if they are to exist as a class.

The world itself is shaking to-day with the struggles of the forces between the "haves" and "have-nots". Germany, Italy and Japan are making frantic efforts to find an outlet of their population and trade. Great Britain, France, America, not to speak of other world-powers, who are content with what they have , are struggling hard to consolidate their position and keep what they possess. The war clouds are rumbling, weaker states are trembling and no body knows what the world situation will be to-morrow. A man of "Peace", however, tries to adjust things and avert human suffering as far as possible.

We can find a counterpart of this world movement in perhaps almost every country which is not suppressed by dictatorial fiats backed by brute force. Why should the capitalists rule Great Britain, France, or America? Have the working classes who toil to produce national wealth no place under the Sun? Questions like these very often crop up in their dealing with national problems. Here, again, a man of "Peace" tries to adjust things and avert human suffering as far as possible.

We should not be amazed if the echo of this world-wide jargon is heard even in India. This is not an industrial country of any importance. It is predominantly an agricultural country and has been for centuries systemised by the introduction of landlordism. Naturally the eyes of all who want to destroy capitalism have turned first to the landlords. If the present movement is allowed to grow unchecked, it is bound to affect all those who have vested interests. Landlordism is only a buffer - and I should think a strong buffer - in this country for the capitalist class and once that is gone the avowed enemies of this class will in one full swoop take away the rest.

But will the country be happier or more prosperous by the destruction of landlords or other capitalists? My answer is an emphatic "No". Look at Russia. The communists there who have for nearly two decades been trying to stir up the world class war have reversed their strategy and are now seeking to co-operate with capitalist states to avoid a world war. They have had experience of power and have seen politics in a realistic manner so as to appreciate that, after all, the prophecies of Marxism may not necessarily come true. The reaction to their doctrine in Germany, Italy, Japan and Spain has probably been their eye-opener.

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We must, however, recognise that we cannot stand aloof from the factors governing the tendencies of the new world in which we find ourselves. We shall have to forget that we are just individuals - all for ourselves. The wave of democracy is too powerful for that, specially as we are aspiring for national solidarity and national freedom. We must think how best we can fit ourselves in the general scheme of national regeneration which is the most vital problem of the present generation. To-day, a bold challenge has been thrown to us; it is a challenge to our leadership of the rural India.The question we shall have to ask ourselves is "shall we pick up the gauntlet?" If our answer be in the negative, it is better for us to go to sleep till death and allow events to take their own course. If in the affirmative, then I would ask you to re-establish your contact with the villagers, think in terms of their welfare and make them feel that your interest is not antagonistic to theirs.

After all, what do we take from our tenants? A fraction of the yield which they get from our land. Are we then their exploiters, or their exploiters are those numerous middle-men who undervalue their commodity, bind them with shackles of debt and make them their bondsmen in the economic sense. I am afraid, not only our tenants but we ourselves have been victims of this economic exploitation and it is high time that we co-operate with them and attempt to check the enormous drain of our resources.

I always consider that a controversy between a landlord and a tenant is only of a spurious character, and so long as it persists it does incalculable harm to the country in general. I would like the landlords to consider what they get from their tenants and the tenants to consider what proportion of the value of the yield from the land they give to their landlords? What amount do they spend in law court? What amount they respectively pay to the traders? and such other allied questions. I would also like to tell them to think for themselves whether it is in their interests to come together and be happier or to drift apart and reap the consequences. We must think of agriculture as an industry in which the land-owners and the tenants are capitalists charged with their universally recognised duties towards the agricultural labour and the result of a fight between them will mean the inevitable collapse of the industry itself. On the other hand, if the landlords and tenants can combine to control the trade, commerce and industry of raw products, they will, I am sure, wield tremendous influence in the country side. Is this not an ideal noble enough to strive for?

Now, there is a talk of nationalisation of the zemindaries. What does that mean? The state takes the place of landlords. The tenants will have to pay rents to the State and not to the landlord. But will that make any appreciable difference in the average income of the people? Where will the process of equitable distribution of the fruits of labour end? What about the lawyers, priests, traders and professional men who live on the labour of the people at large? How will the new order of things react on them? Will not that mean a collapse of the present day economic structure? Will it not land the country into an uncertain future? We should pause to consider.

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Thus you will see that there is no substance in the oft-repeated cry that landlordism has broken down. In the changed circumstances of the country the outlook of Landlordism can not be the same as before. But with the outlook which I have stressed as necessary we can keep landlordism as a permanent factor in the national regeneration of this great country. The most important and hopeful thing is the nature of the system into which the old landlordism will be transmuting itself. This development can be hastened by the direct drive of leadership which I have already alluded to.

I am aware of the fact that ever since the inauguration of provincial autonomy agrarian troubles have taken an ugly turn and have spread throughout the country. They are usually aggravated by those irresponsible elements who take delight in fishing in troubled waters. But this cloud too has a silver lining. Most of those who are in power in the Congress organisation which runs the government of seven provinces want adjustment and peace. We may have our differences with them in matters of detail, but so far as the general policy is concerned we cannot have any disagreement. We want adjustment because therein lies our security. We want peace because only then can we develop our strength. For a minority interest like ours it is only desperation that can drive us to fight and I have reasons to believe that so long as the group following the directions of Mahatma Gandhi rules in the Congress and the socialists and communists are kept in check we shall not have to take that extreme step. Nevertheless we feel that many provincial governments are showing very great weakness in dealing with the situation. Forcible possession of zemindar's land, loot, terrorism and murder are matters of almost every day occurrance. These atrocities are misnamed as "Kisan Satyagraha". These must be stopped at once if the Government have any pretention to maintain law and order and I urge upon them specially those who profess truth and non-violence as their creed to take firm action and check the spirit of lawlessness which is bound to be harmful to the interests of the country. Let me hope that this is only a passing phase and the moment we are able to help our tenants to improve their economic condition these agitators will find their occupation gone. Alongside with it I must also appeal to those who guide the destinies of the Indian National Congress to take immediate steps to prevent any further deterioration of the agrarian situation. I am convinced that an honourable compromise between the contending parties can achieve what legislations carried by majority of votes cannot. Good-will of all sections of the people which is the foundation of a national Government can be obtained by conciliation and not by coercion or suppression. When I say this I am not oblivious of the fact that just as there are the socialists in the Congress organisation who will be satisfied with nothing short of the total abolition of the zemindaries, there are in our organisation too persons who are strongly of opinion that they must continue as before and if need be, to lay down their lives to protect their rights and privileges. In my opinion this school of thought is as injurious to the interest of the country as the socialists. If allowed a free play either of these will plunge the country in bloody strife, ruin agriculture

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and hopelessly retard the moral and material progress of the country. If we look at the problem with a view to establish peace in the country and promote its welfare and adjust our differences accordingly, I feel sure that an honourable compromise is not difficult.

Brethern, I have always been stressing the point that we can not do anything unless we close up our own ranks and develop our strength. I repeat the same to-day. In order that our voice and action may be effective, we must link together every landlord from one end to another in a single chain. That is the main purpose of our meeting to-day. We expect our brother landlords to join us not by passing of pious resolutions or making speeches but by promoting a spirit of mutual service. Individual attention to the needs and difficulties of landholders by our district organisations, general direction regarding the programme of work by our provincial organisations, and guidance from the All-India organisation regarding the policy to be pursued by the landlords are necessary, if we want our organisation to make itself felt. I feel that we should have in each provincial organisation of ours a study section to plan things and find out solution of our day to day problem, a propaganda section to inform all concerned what we are doing and why, and a third section to keep close supervision over district organisations which will more or less consist of field workers. The utility and success of all and All-India organisation will largely depend upon the strength of our provincial organisations, and we must leave no stone unturned to see that in the provinces in which there are more organisations of landlords than one, on account of varying local conditions, they should work in complete harmony under the All-India body which we are going to set up.

In my address at Darbhanga, I had drawn the attention of my brother-landlords to the mischievous attempts that are being made to divide our ranks by pitting the landlords with small income against those with comparatively larger income and pointed out that such a dismemberment of our ranks would lead the entire class of landlords to their doom. I admit that they are differently situated, but the fact remains that the one can not replace the other. Within the landlords' organisation, they have different functions to perform, and it is only by their joint efforts that our organisation can hope to achieve its object. They must supplement each other and each must see that the other is justly and fairly treated and is able to survive the onslaughts made on him. "One for All and All for One" should be our watch-word. I trust that every provincial organisation will pay special attention to this vital question and bring about complete cohesion amongst the various grades of landholders.

Side by side with organising ourselves, we must not lose sight of the fact that the landlords are in a numerical minority in the country and cannot exist by themselves. They must in order to play an effective role in the political life of the nation coalesce with such other groups or parties whose aims and objects are in common with ours. But the usefulness and value of such a coalition can be determined only by the measure of the inherent

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strength which our organisation gathers; and it is for this very reason that I appeal to the landholders to be one in mind and spirit.

Friends, I have indicated what I consider to be the best line which the landlords should adopt at the present juncture. We must always remember that we are the children of the soil and though differently situated from our brethern belonging to the other classes, have as much duties and obligations towards our mother country as any body else. All that we have to consider here is how we can help our country to occupy a position of honour in this world. That can be the only justification of our existence. We want our class to exist because we believe that its existence will contribute towards the country's prosperity and that its destruction would plunge us all into chaos and disorder. We maintain that we have as much right to exist as any other class that is in existence to-day by reason of the long process of evolution. We have met here to demonstrate that we are not going to recede from the field of action. We are alive to the needs of the situation and we are prepared to play our part honourably and well. Let us now get to the business before us and with heart within and God overhead, determine what we should do and how. May we walk boldly and wisely in the light we have and get what we desire.

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AT THE NINETIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA, DELIVERED BY THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF DARBHANGA, THE 26TH MARCH, 1942.

Gentlemen,

Uppermost in our minds today is the great void that has been created in our midst by the very sad, sudden and untimely demise of Sir Bijoy Chand Mahtab, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., I.O.M., Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, who had been directing the affairs of this Association for so many years with conspicuous ability. My personal relationship with him was so close and of such a nature that it is impossible for me to give expression to either my estimation of him or my feelings about him. But he has left behind him a brilliant record of devoted public service which speaks volumes about the man and his work. I think, I can do no better than to say of him what my father, in his very place, said in relation to another great son of India, who also belonged to our class and had the privilege of being a President of this Association :

"He was a man, take him for all in all;
We shall not look upon his like again".

Let us pay our homage to his memory, offer our heartfelt condolence, sympathy and support to the present Maharajadhiraja Bahadur and express our wish that in the years of increasing difficulties to come he may succeed in worthily maintaining the traditions of his great House.

While I greatly deplore the circumstances in which I was called upon to occupy this seat, I highly value the confidence which you have reposed in me, specially because with me here, it is demonstrated that all the three successive Maharajas of Darbhanga have been thought fit to be entrusted with the direction of your affairs. I am neither oblivious of the disadvantages of having to succeed outstanding figures nor of the difficulties that the changed conditions of things have brought about and had I not been assured of your whole-hearted co-operation and support I would not have ventured to accept this responsible position.

We are passing through a period of unprcedented crisis. Events are moving so fast that one does not know where he is. We are face to face with dangers of external aggression and internal disorder. We cannot imagine what tomorrow will bring us. We have therefore to take things as they come, and act quickly in order that we may withstand the convulsion that is threatening to sweep us off.

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We are indeed in a terrible plight. While year after year taxes increased and multiplied and a very large part of the revenue of Government of India were utilised in army expenditure, we were told that we were paying for the security of our country. The Indian legislature had no control either over the defence expenditure or direction of defence policy. Never was any proposal for taxation actually denied by reason of the vote of the Indian legislature. If the Finance Bill was thrown out in the Assembly the handy method of certification gave the Government what they wanted from year to year. But ever since the outbreak of war we are told that we are in a state of utter unpreparedness. The position with regard to the Far East was frankly stated the other day by no less a person than our new Comander-in-Chief, General Sir Archibald Wavell. It indeed requires extra-ordinary courage to acknowledge mistakes at a time like this and I greatly appreciate his frankness. I know how distasteful it is for a general of his eminence to be in the position in which he finds himself. He was racing against time and to his great disgust found himself behind the clock. May I ask what were Government of India doing with crores and crores of money which they have been getting for defence purposes from year to year? Yet to add insult to injury an important member of the Government of India declared the other day that the responsibility for this unpreparedness lay on the non-official members of the legislature who consistently attacked the defence expenditure for the past so many years. The Hon'ble Finance Member may deceive himself by such lame excuses but they can deceive no one else. What has not India done to help the prosecution of war even in the humiliating position in which she finds herself ? People of India are coming forward to join the army and in various campaigns they have shown their capacity to give their lives for the vindication of the honour of their King and Country - nay the British Empire. Voluntary contributions for the prosecution of war are pouring in, from every nook and corner of India. Physical and mental strain caused by various restrictive measures of Governments are being borne without murmur. And yet, we are told that we are responsible for the unpreparedness of our country. In my opinion the unpreparedness is entirely due to the utter failure of British diplomacy, British secret service and I may add British statesmanship. So far as India is concerned the pernicious post-mutiny policy of distrust is largely responsible for the happenings of today. Will the powers that be face facts squarely and correct the mistakes that have landed them and us in the present plight ? H.E. the Commander-in-Chief rightly considers that one of the principal factors in the defence of the country is the spirit and morale of the people. Have the Government of India or the British Government cared to investigate what is responsible for crushing the spirit and demoralising so many millions of our countrymen, who feel that they are slaves in their own home. Had it not been for the traditions that still sustain them they would have been found in much worse position. Tradition is largely responsible for their glorious deeds in the battle fields of the present war. Tradition is responsible for the unqualified support of the Indian princes and the land-holding community. Tradition and tradition

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alone has kept our spirit and morale even in their present state. Will Government produce an atmosphere congenial to their growth ? Will they allow India even at this late hour to rise equal to the occasion and ward off the aggressors with her resources that are capable of vast expansion in every direction ?

The initiative for intensifying war efforts in the country primarily lies with the Government of India and the British Government. In my opinion, the first and foremost duty of the Government of India is to assure the public that every pice of public money that is obtained by means of taxation or otherwise is spent in the most economical manner on matters necessary to make India fully armed, equipped and self sufficient to ward off the aggressors. It is generally felt that while frantic appeals are made to non-officials to contribute to war efforts they have very little hand in the conduct of affairs. I do not minimise the importance of the expansion of the Governor-General's Executive Council and the creation of the National Defence Council. They are steps in the right direction; but, I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that in actual administration in spite of what has been lately done, the hiatus between official and non-official India is yet so great that there is lack of that enthusiasm which may draw forth every ounce of energy from every man, woman and child for the gigantic work we have before us.

We find that no effort has been made even at a time of this unprecedented crisis to cut down the salaries of the officials. On the other hand, instances are available of men, already in service, being given increased salaries and emoluments for doing war work. Are these not excess profits ? I think that during the pendency of the war all increments should be stopped. The war burden should be borne equally by all and one section should not be allowed to prosper at the cost of others.

I cannot understand that when there is such a great need of money to finance the life and death struggle in which we are engaged, Government should have been in a hurry to sanction the expenditure of a huge amount in purchasing railways and undertake other public works which could very well be deferred till the return of normal times.

I wonder why Government does not appoint a Retrenchment Committee to effect every possible economy in public expenditure both at the centre and the Provinces and suggest steps to release for war purposes every pice of public money that can be available by judicious curtailment of other kinds of expenses and discontinuing experiments, not connected with war efforts, that are of the nature of "wild goose chase". Wastage of every kind has to be stopped. Top-heavy administration even ordinarily stands condemned and I cannot help feeling that in an emergency of this kind, a step such as this, on the part of Government is very necessary. I am sure that if Government move in this direction, they will produce a wholesome atmosphere in the country.

It appears that with a certain type of officials in India it has become a fashion to characterise criticisms of Government's muddle as defeatism. I would like them to read

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the comments of London Press on the Home Secretary's statement in the House of Commons regarding the *Daily Mirror*. We are certainly not defeatists. We have full faith in the ultimate victory of our cause and with that faith we are in a determined manner extending our whole-hearted co-operation in war efforts undeterred by the fact that the help we give during periods of crisis is conveniently forgotten when the crisis is over and we are made a scapegoat during peace time arrangements. Our action is governed by our heart and not by our head and we despise bargaining. I however consider it to be the duty of everyone to express his opinion freely on questions of public importance. I feel that we shall be untrue to Government and untrue to ourselves if we do not express our views frankly.

The powers that be must change the entire conception of the Government of this country. We have seen that ever since they came to this country they have been doing everything in their power to systematically un-Indianise India. The process has gone very far and enough mischief has already been done. Forces have been brought into play which have well nigh destroyed the social, economic and political systems brought into being by the people of this country. To me free India means the revival of those ideals, civilization and culture which made India great. Unity in diversity was the essential feature of all that existed here. We have in its place today diversity alone. Unity is gone and we do not know when we will get it back. A common danger like the one we have at the present moment can bring that back, but only if the helpless position in which the constitution has placed us is changed. The distrust existing between Britishers and Indians on the one hand and that between Indians themselves on the other must be killed and the seed of freedom and goodwill must be sown in order to have it. That will also put the Indo-British relationship on a more secure foundation and make the world appreciate better the principles for which the war is being fought.

We have yet to see the scheme which Sir Stafford Cripps has brought. I do not know whether we belonging to the land-holding community, which is being studiously ignored except when support is needed, will be considered fit to be consulted and be required to give our approval to it. But it is up to us, in any case, to shape our policy and programme in such a way that our existence may not be imperilled and we may continue to play a distinctive part in the changed condition of things. Our future lies on our inherent strength. I hope, however, that he will by his achievements be able to arouse in this country the same sentiments that permeate the people of his own country and rectify the mistakes committed by his own countrymen with respect to us. Friendly India, living her own life, will be a greater asset to the British Empire than India tied to the apron string of a western democracy.

In my opinion, in addition to what we are doing in one capacity or the other to win the war we should at this moment direct our attention specially to two or three important

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things in the countryside. These are : provision for food and raiment of the people, organisation of village guards and giving medical aid to the sufferers. Our own administrative machinery supplemented by and co-ordinated with the machinery set up by Government, wherever they may exist, can, I think, go a great way in meeting the needs of the situation and minimising the chances of lawlessness.

I would again emphasise that whatever may be our differences with the Government- and they are very many indeed - our loyalty to our King-Emperor and our country remains as firm as ever and we must do everything in our power to keep the aggressors off our door. We should grudge no sacrifice necessary to meet this supreme need of the hour.

I will now ask you to turn your attention to the condition of landlords as it exists today.

Of late, we have been very hard hit on account of the low prices of agricultural commodities. At first we had the economic depression which made the collection of rent enormously difficult and gave the Governments brought into existence by the Government of India Act, 1935, an excuse to reduce the income of land-holding community by lesgislative enactments of various kinds. Arrears of rent have been considerably reduced in several provinces. Lands sold in arrears of rent had to be returned for half the value for which they were purchased in court sale and huge expenditure had to be incurred in rent-reduction proceedings. Now, we have the machinery for price-control which precludes the agriculturists from getting proper price for their goods, and the land-holding community their rent. Further, the so called Kisan movement taking different shapes at different places, started with the avowed object of destroying landlordism is allowed to freely exploit the situation and make it extremely difficult for the landlords to collect their just dues. In certain places even the war situation is exploited to withhold our rent. The legal machinery for the realisation of dues has in actual practice proved to be vexations and unsuitable for the present-day needs, and no heed is paid to the demands for making it effective. Money Lenders' Act have stifled the flow of credit. This reminds me of what the late Mr. Ramsay Macdonald observed about the tendency of the British system of administration which has been so slavishly followed by those who have been working the Government of India Act, 1935. He said :

" It was perhaps owing to the general decay of sympathetic understanding too that we so often over-emphasised the merits of westernisation, destroying for example the old economic system in which the much abused Bania played a useful part, without putting anything satisfactory in its place".

On the other hand no relief whatsoever has been given in the matter of payment of revenue. Sunset law still operates. The payment of cess has to be made by landlords though they may not be able to realise the tenants' share. The inevitable result of all these is that the indebtedness of the land-holding communities has increased by leaps and

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bounds and very few landholders have any reserve. What is still worse, is that harmonious relationship between landlords and tenants has been shattered and the development of land, which depended on the close co-operation between landlords and tenants, has become more difficult than ever. In a predominantly agricultural country like India such a state of things cannot fail to spell disaster. We know what these measures have meant to the landlords. But are the ryots happier than what they were ? If they are, do Government consider it either legal or moral that they do not pay their dues to the landlords? If they are not, does it not show that the causes of their misery are not what necessitated revolutionary enactments but something else ? I should like the Provincial Governments to give the matter the careful consideration it deserves. I would like them also to consider whether the lot of ryots in khasmahal estates or in ryotwari area is any better than that of the ryots in the privately owned estate. Surely problems such as these do not deserve to be tackled as haphazardly as they have been. To crown all, we have been saddled with the Agricultural Income Tax in certain provinces and efforts are being made to levy it in other provinces. In short, the value of Zamindaris has gone down considerably, rural credit has suffered a rude shock and the Permanent Settlement Regulation, except in so far as it enables the Government to be generous at our expense, has been successfully, though surreptitiously, killed.

What wonder there is then that a large number of landlords in sheer desparation wish to sell away their Zamindaris and divert whatever capital they may thereby have to other channels? Their privileges have been destroyed, their power to do good has been considerably curtailed and their spirit systematically damped! But it must be noted by the powers that be that the landholding community forms such an important part of the present day social and economic structure that to try to eliminate this class is to invite chaos and revolution in the country.

The Bengal Land Revenue Commission (1940) has opened many dangerous vistas. As has been so ably pointed out in the joint note of dissent by the late Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan and Mr. Brojendra Kishore Roy Choudhary the findings of the Commission with regards to the Permanent Settlement have been arbitrary, are not based on evidence tendered before them and should not be rushed through without proper consideration. It is not necessary for me to tell you how the Government of Bengal, as constituted at the time, packed the Commission at a late stage to get the support of a majority for the particular plan which they wanted to thrust on us. I emphatically refute the contention that the report of the so called majority, represents the true position. It is after all an one sided game of the party in power ..... We wanted a fair deal. It is not our intention to stand in the way of national progress. To do so will be contrary to our tradition. But we should no longer meekly submit to the tyranny of any class or body of opinion, whatever may be their strength for the time being. If our position is sound and

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cause is just, we are bound to succeed ultimately, although it may be that we may suffer many reverses in the course of struggle.

It is sometime asked, what is the strength in us. It is true that numerically we are in a weak position. It is also true that we do not possess the safeguards of minorities. We have clearly seen that for nearly two centuries persistent attempts have been made to weaken us. In actual practice no safeguard has been of any avail. The sources of our strength can therefore only be our unity and inherent qualities. We have so far survived on account of them. Let us therefore give up the idea of asking for any special protection from Government. It is on account of our want of self-confidence that we are humiliated by Government and suspected by our own countrymen. We must trust the vast majority of our own countrymen who are still unpolluted by un-Indian mentality and be trusted by them. After all, the degree of differences between us is much smaller than what is commonly believed to be. On major issues the interest of our class is identical with that of the people of other classes and if anyone cares to study the part played by our community in building up the national life of our country he will bear testimony to the fact that service to our country has always been our chief concern. We have our detractors; and who is immune from them? But even a short analysis of the charges made against us will reveal that the causes of making such charges have their basis not on truth but on the selfish designs of the blackmailers.

I am not one of those who despair. But we should realise that every blow that has fallen on us has to some extent been due to our disintegration. So, if we wish to survive in the darkness that has enveloped us we shall have to stand shoulder to shoulder, develop the fine qualities of leadership that have been made to lie dormant at present and act with determination and faith. The dawn must come; and the day that will follow will again show us in full splendour. In this connection I cannot but view with deep concern the attempts that are being made to divide our ranks. A distinction has been made by such terms as "big" and "small" landholders. I wish therefore to warn every variety of landlords against such mischievous attempts. They should realise that they form part of the same system and their existence depends mainly on their unity. They will float or sink together. Division is bound to accelerate the process of their extinction. In that case, the question will be, which variety of landlord will be the first victim and which other variety will follow subsequently.

I need not tell you how important it is for us to move with the spirit of time and manage our affairs in such a manner that we may successfully cope with the situation created by vile propaganda and mischievous enactments. It may be considered to be a difficult task. But difficulties are meant to be surmounted and I have not lost my faith either in the potentiality of landlordism or in the capacity of my brother landlords to face dangers manfully.

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I have deliberately refrained from going into details of the various matters that are engaging the attention of this Association as well as other sister organisations of landlords and have referred to only a few of the most pressing problems confronting the land-holding community in general. Those are really matters of day to day work of the Associations concerned. Nevertheless, I think I have given you sufficient indication of my feelings as to how we should act and why. I hope that the members of the land-holding community both inside and outside the House will take active interest in their own welfare through Associations like this and present a united front to protect their own interest.

You are aware how this British Indian Association, which may be called the mother of non-official political organisations in India, has been rendering useful service to India in general and the landholding community in particular. Always vigilant, always active, our Secretary, Mr. P.N.Singh Roy, is entitled to our gratitude for conducting the work of the Association with such efficiency. I ask you, gentlemen, to do everything in your power to strengthen his hands by your advice and co-operation in an increasing measure, so that the Association may act more vigorously and our interest may be protected more securely. This Association has a proud tradition behind it and its sphere extends far beyond the Provinces of Bengal. It is, for that reason, rightly entitled to the collaboration of the sister organisations existing in the provinces having permanently settled estates and I have no reason to doubt that it will play an important part in shaping the policy and programme of the All-India Landholders' Association which includes every variety of landlords throughout the length and bredth of this country.

I have nothing more to say. But before I resume my seat I again thank you all for the kindness and courtsey you have shown in doing, me the honour which you have done.

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PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH OF THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF DARBHANGA AT THE ALL-BENGAL LANDHOLDERS' CONFERENCE ON 13.9.43

Brethren,

Bengal, at present, is passing through an extremely grim crisis. Not only she stands in the constant danger of being engulfed by the flames of war, ... her political horizon undescribably dismal, it seems that 'Nature' and 'Man' have conspired together to bring her devastation and ruin. We have not yet forgotten either the disastrous typhoon of Midnapur or the havoc caused by the Damodar floods; nor can we easily forget her present economic condition, a vivid picture of which can be seen by any one, who has an eye to see, in the streets of this second city in the British Empire. Indeed, the food situation in Bengal is so bad that it has attracted the notice of the whole of India. Within the living memory, it has evoked sentiments equalled only to those exhibited during the Bihar Earthquake of 1934. The machinery of Governments - both Central and provincial- seems to be moving. It has started moving rather late. Perhaps, its movement in the wrong direction is causing great confusion, embarrassment and delay in combating the present situation. In spite of the best intentions of everyone, in spite of the assistance of non-official bodies and individuals we have not yet seen the end of the era of starvation and deaths. I unreservedly condemn those, be they non-officials or officials, who have, by their short sightedness or cupidity callously allowed this situation to arise. Things are bad everywhere. When a country is involved in war it is bound to suffer hardships. But in this Province the deterioration is so great that it cannot fail to have its repercussions on the efforts for winning the War, which is so preponderating in our thoughts and actions today. I hope, however, that it will not be long before the combined efforts of the Government and the people will succeed in improving this dangerous situation and dispel the gloom that at present envelopes this bright Province.

We have now as the Acting Governor of Bengal a person credited with great driving force and we hope his dynamic personality will greatly help the solution of this acute problem. This is not the first time that a governor of Bihar has filled the high office in this presidency, but I am very sorry for the circumstances that necessitated it on this occasion. I hope, however, that his Excellency Sir John Herbert will speedily recover and we will have His excellecy Sir Thomas Rutherford back in Bihar. We do not grudge his coming here at this hour because the need of Bengal is much greater at present than that of Bihar but we will be glad to welcome him back to Bihar as soon as possible, because during the short time that he had been in that province he showed great promise and at a time like this we need a man with imagination, courage and sympathies.

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I take this opportunity to join in the numerous appeals that have been made from various responsible quarters to come to the rescue of Bengal in this hour of her dire need; and trust that this cause of humanity will not suffer the want of sympathy or support from any quarter. It is not a question of this community or that as some of the donors have emphasised by the implications of their donations. It concerns the suffering humanity of Bengal and we must not debase ourselves by giving this misery of mankind a communal colour. Such thoughtlessness will, I am afraid, drive us to an unfathomable depth of degradation.

But while the people are dying of starvation the Governments are dreaming of their enormous purchasing power. Inflation has no doubt created this illusion. But it is not difficult to discern that the bulk of the purchasing power lies not in the hands of the people at large but in the hands of the Governments and their proteges. Heavy taxation, (direct and indirect, central and provincial, district and municipal) and other factors prevent the people of this country in general from taking proper advantage of the increase in the purchasing power which the rise in prices of commodities is supposed to have universally caused. The whole thing is so unbalanced, so injudicious and so fallacious that one is unnecessarily lost in the maze of fiscal theories and intricacies. The fact remains that save the fortunate few who know the artifice and have the means of creating surpluses, the people in general are in a much worse condition than that before the War.

In such an atmosphere, we have met today to deliberate not on the past actions of the Government with regard to ourselves, but on the fresh inequity with which the present Government threaten us by the proposal to impose tax on the Agricultural income. We know that the Government have been contemplating to bring a measure of this kind for a long time. The Bengal Agricultural Income Tax Bill, 1943, is practically a reprint of the Bill published in the Calcutta Gazette of September, 2, 1941. The Ministerial crisis in December, 1941, did not allow the Bill to proceed further then. At that time, it was inspired by the report of the Bengal Land Revenue Commission which suggested that in view of the unavoidable delay in the proposed acquisition of the Zamindaries and tenures, it was desirable to levy agricultural cess or income tax for 'improving the economic conditions.' It seems that now the inspiration for reviving the measure has come from the Central Government who imagine that the purchasing power of the people has increased by the rise in the prices of agricultural commodities and since that affects the general price level this method should be adopted to reduce the same. During the intervening period we had the move for the acquistion of the Zamindaries and tenures in certain areas; but fortunately, another ministerial crisis impeded its progress. It is surprising to find that the Government in their frantic efforts to balance their deficit budgets are so blind to the realities of the situation that they propose to resort to measures that may irretrievably destroy the prosperity of the Province. We have seen that each new experiment, made ostensibly for the betterment of the condition of the people, has resulted in making them more and more miserable.

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The preamble of the Bill and the Statement of Objects and Reasons indicate that the tax on agricultural income is being imposed for 'general purpose.' This has robbed the measure of even that saving grace which is contained in the recommendations of the Floud Commission. In paragraph 137 of their main report they say :

"We are strongly of opinion that if agricultural income tax is imposed, it should be applied solely for the improvement of the agriculture or for project connected with agricultural improvement."

If the amount of the proceeds would have been earmarked for agricultural improvement, there would have been some justification for this additional burden on the landholding community. But when the tax is going to be imposed for general purposes to meet the expanding needs of the administration we have to satisfy ourselves that the expansion is moving on justifiable grounds. It has been our bitter experience that the expansion of the expenditure of Governments knows no end and correspondingly there is also the expansion of the people's misery. We know it too well that the level of taxation has risen so high that it has assumed the character of exactions. And further, it is our firm belief that the way in which things are managed at present, it can never bring about any peace, prosperity or progress in this country. As Hindu, I am convinced that the State is entitled to only a certain fixed portion of our income as a reward for the protection of its subjects and when this principle is violated it becomes th question of might over-riding right. The State has to give back to the people in the shape of protection and prosperity what it takes in the shape of taxes and when fails to do so, it has no moral right to exist. We have heard so much about the democratic principle; 'No taxation without representation.' It implies that the people should tax themselves and they should have an effective voice in the spending of the money received by taxation. Is it not a travesty of this time-honoured principle that is seen today in every part of this country? Do we not find ourselves very much in the picture when it is a question of being taxed; but nowhere in it when it is a question of spending the money received by taxation?

We have also to make sure that the burden of taxation on the class of landholders is almost equal to the burden borne by other classes.

Dr. Radhakumud Mukherjee, the renowned economist, has in his note of dissent from the main report of the Floud Commission, clearly stated that the agricultural income tax will produce inequality of financial burden. He has agreed with Sir Nalini Ranjan Chatterjee who had observed:

"It appears that the owners of land had to pay cesses, while other sections of the public had to pay income tax. That being so if land is made liable to income tax there will be burden (a) of revenue under the Permanent Settlement (b) of road and public cesses and (c) of income tax which does not seem to be justifiabl unless other sections of the public are also made liable with cesses."

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The sentiments of landholders in respect of levying tax on agricultural income was very forcefully put by the late Sir Bijay Chand Mehtab, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan, in his evidence before the Joint Select Committee on Indian constitutional reform. In answer to a question by Sir Abdur Rahim he said :

"When the Permanent Settlement was passed we did not have these different local rates of tax, we did not have the roads and public work cesses, we did not have the education cess. We have various other cesses now. What is more, many inroads have been made on the Permanent Settlement by lumping in things like Jalkar and Falkar into the income tax. Therefore, when you come to examine the Permanent Settlement Zamindars' right, you find there is every reason for the Zamindars to fight to the death against the intricacies of tax on the agricultural income."

The late Maharajadhiraja Bahadur also opposed the taxation of the agricultural income as member of the Floud Commission. But being apprehensive of the fact that the Government were bent upon imposing it by disregarding the landholders' point of view, he in para 56 of his note of dissent has stated certain principles which should guide the authorities while imposing the tax. He has made it clear that it should not be taken to mean that he was in any way agreeable to the imposition of the tax. I need not repeat the well conceived arguments which he has put forward in his note against the imposition of this tax ; nor do I think it necessary for me to say again what has been so ably placed before you in the form of a pamphlet by Mr. P.N. Singh Roy. But I must ask the Government to give close attention to our points of view as contained in the observations of our representatives on different occasions and at different places.

As I have told you before, the tax would have had something to justify it if it would have been levied solely for the purpose of improving the position of our agriculture. Perhaps, it would have been also justifiable if it would have been fixed for a limited period in order to help the Government in meeting the war situation; because in that case, it would have been a sacrifice for a limited period to meet the paramount need of the hour and even though we would have been economically hit hard we would have felt that it was a temporary measure to vindicate the honour of our King and Country, and, we might possibly, recover from its adverse effects when the present abnormal situation would cease to exist. But neither in the Bill nor in the practice hitherto followed by Governments in India do we see anything that might justify a measure like this in any way.

It might be said that it does not lie in my mouth to condemn this measure while similar measure was passed in the Province of Behar with my tacit consent. The position in Bihar at that time was very different to that prevailing in this Province at present. Electors had sent to the legislature the candidates of the Congress party in such a big majority that we could not think of a majority even in a joint session of both the Chambers,

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although the party of the landlords had a majority in the Upper house. The Congress Party was pledged to a certain programme and one of the items of their programme was the introduction of Prohibition. That, of course, threatened to diminish the provincial income, and in order to introduce reforms in various directions the Congress Government was in need of money. On the strength of the majority in the legislature and probably with full concurrence and support of the Government (who alone could, if he so liked, interfere in such matters) they started making sweeping changes in the Tenancy Laws, etc. But they knew that the position of the landholders in the economic structure of the Province was such that unless the Ministry could come to an understanding with them the Law and Order would be seriously affected. The realization of this position resulted in negotiations between the landlords and the Congress and the Tenancy as well as Agricultural Income Tax Acts were passed on the basis of agreement that was reached by those negotiations. The problems existing then were considered as whole and conflicting view points were settled in the spirit of give and take. Although by way of compromise we acquiesced to its imposition as a part of that agreement we never agreed to the principle involved in it. The congress party undertook to fix the limit of exemption from assessment and the rate of taxation unalterably, according to the agreed figures. It is regrettable, however, that by the time the Congress left office only such laws could be passed as were intended to deprive landlords of their rights, and other items in the agreement like measures for speedy realization of rent which were intended to benefit the landlords had not been implemented. ..... So the present position in Bihar is that while the tax levied by the Congress Government exists, the purpose for which they imposed this tax does not. It would have been proper for the Congress Government to have repealed the Agricultural Income Tax before they left office ; but in their wisdom they thought it proper to make a present of so much extra money and power which they had in their hands, to the bureaucratic Government rather than to place them in the care of the other section of their countrymen who were left in the legislature.

This is a matter common to both Bengal and Bihar that the Zamindars have to pay their revenue and cess irrespective of the fact whether they are able to realize it from their tenants or not. It is also common to both the Provinces that series of legislations and agrarian agitations have reduced their income and owing to the Tenancy laws the income is so inelastic that war or no war the amount of the fixed rent which they are to get cannot in any case be increased. Thus, although other classes of people, for instance, those who have taken to trade, commerce and industry, have profited during the war, the landlords have remained where they were. Further, both Bihar and Bengal are lands of chiefly small landlords who in spite of the rise in prices of agricultural commodities are not in a position to have much surplus on account of the rise in prices of other necessities of life. Indeed only a few people in the countryside of both Bengal and Bihar can be said to have bettered their position in any appreciable extent by paying their debts and redeeming their mortgages.

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The Bengal Bill differs from the Bihar Act in two important respects, namely (1) in the matter of fixation of rates and (2) in the matter of fixing the unassessable income. For practical purposes these two matters are very vital for the landholders. The progress of Bengal has been largely brought about by them and the prospect will be very gloomy if they are economically ruined. Therefore, while opposing the Bill on the grounds of justice and equity, I feel constrained to say that in case the Government do not see their way to drop the Bill, the details of the Bill should be so modified that the vital elements of the Province may continue to exist. We should further press hard for having necessary legislations to ensure punctual payment of rent by the tenants; because, otherwise, it will be impossible for our class to exist with liabilities to pay so many taxes. Our experience has been that promises mean nothing and are worse than useless.

As I have mentioned to you, the burden of taxation on the landlords as a class is heaviest and it is time now that we should press Government (both Central and Provincial) to have the matter examined in order that the burden may be evenly distributed between all classes and equal facilities for development be given to all of them in order that we may be able to do what is expected of us.

Since the Federal court judgment in the Agricultural Income Tax case has been delivered I am not sure whether and if so, how for, we, have any legel remedy against a measure of this kind. But we have always the right to represent to the powers-that-be and make them realize that it is not in the interest of either the country or the Government to play at ducks and drakes with our lot and bring about the extinction of a class which has taken firm root on the soil and disappearence of which is bound seriously to affect the progress and prosperity of our land. I have no doubt that if we bring home to the Government the desperate plight to which we are being driven, day by day, they will realize their mistakes in pursuing their present policy towards us and afford us such justice as we deserve. If they do so, I am sure, it will be for the good of all concerned.

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
AT THE ALL INDIA LANDHOLDERS' CONFERENCE
HELD AT CALCUTTA
ON THE 18TH, 19TH AND 20TH AUGUST, 1944.

I greatly value the confidence which you have reposed in me by calling upon me to occupy this seat of honour.You have indeed overwhelmed me by your kindness and consideration. But that only shows the nobility of your heart and proves the truth of Montaigne's observation that confidence in another man's virtue is no slight evidence of a man's own.

I am extremely thankful to you for coming here in response to my invitation at a time when travelling and everything else have become so very difficult. Believe me, I would not have given you all this trouble had I not been convinced of the urgency and paramount necessity of a joint deliberation and common action in the present situation.

We are indeed greatly indebted to the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Burdwan who as the President of the British Indian Association and the Chairman of the Reception Committee of this Conference has made it possible for us to meet here to-day. We are also grateful to Mr. P.N.Singh Roy, the Honorary Secretary of the Association, and his collaborators for the help rendered by them in making it easy for us to conduct the business of this Conference.

I wish to tell you at the outset that it is the preliminary Conference of a few public-spirited landlords convened for the purpose of chalking out a common line of action in the existing circumstances. When that has been done it will be the duty of the body to be set up by this Conference to have it ratified by the landholders' organisations in different provinces. The proceedings of this Conference shall of course be circulated to the landholders's organisations throughout the country and their opinions on our recommendations will be invited. I am aware that when "travel less" is the order of the day it is not possible to have a large gathering at any place. But we can effectively make up for that shortcoming by collecting opinion of a large body of landlords by post on the decisions of this Conference which as you see consists of persons who occupy influential positions not only in the landlords' organisations of their provinces but also in the public life of this country. The opinions of the landholders' organisations of different provinces will not only guide our future deliberations but will be a source of inspiration and strength to us in whatever action we may take to safeguard the interests of landlords. The conditions of landlords no doubt vary from province to province, and provincial organisations of landlords are primarily concerned with the provincial problems. But it needs an all-India body to watch how a particular thing affects the landholding class - no matter in which

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province it has occurred - and, if needed, to give its moral and material support to the landholders of the adversely affected locality in safeguarding their position. This principle was fully recognized when the Federation of All-India Landholders was established by a widely representative gathering of landholders at Lucknow in 1939. In spite of their differences the landholders, like the industrialists, form an important economic unit in this country and are directly concerned with land. If the landholders of one province lose their economic value it will indirectly affect the landholding class of the entire country. For one reason or the other the Federation of All-India Landholders could not work according to our expectations and since we all agree that an all-India body is necessary to safeguard our interests it will be worth our while to examine its constitution again and see how we can make it really an active organisation. The inertia that has crept into our class has brought us to the position into which we find ourselves reduced to-day and unless we shake it off and force ourselves forward we cannot keep pace with the fastly moving time through which we are passing.

What is our position to-day? Politically, we are nonentities. Who thinks of our class today except as debris of what was once a formidable structure sheltering the countryside? They think only of removing us from their way. Economically, we exist only to meet the never-ending demands of those who strive to end us. And socially, we are dragged down by forces which have been created with our help. What a pity that we allow ourselves to be treated like this and do not move with the time to rehabilitate the position which we have lost by reason of self-forgetfulness, ..., or shall I say, inaction. If only we give up our defeatist mentality and cultivate confidence in our inherent strength we can, I am sure still exist and shape the future of our country in a manner that may suit its tradition and culture.

During the present time we have to think of our class as a whole rather than of ourselves individually, and as a class we have to act in such a way that the other sections of our countrymen may consider our existence indispensable for the progress and prosperity of our country.

Any one who cares to look into the history of this country will agree that landlordism in one form or the other has been in existence in this country from the earliest times, and the distinction between the political rights of the Crown and the individual rights of ownership was always understood. During the ancient and medieval periods of the history of India her soul expressed itself through her rural democracies and their institutions, and the democracy was led by the landlords of the locality. It was the British system of centralized administration that disrupted the ancient system and it was the British notion of democracy that has brought into existence forces that strike at the very root of the indigenous organization that had stood the test of time.

The Permanent Settlement was after all a halting and muddled recognition of the

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rights and status of landlords forced upon the rulers by the circumstances prevailing at the time. It was in the interests of the British Government of the time to do so. But it certainly gave the landlords an opportunity to give evidence of their energy, enterprise and spirit of service. They did not only increase their own income, but also enhanced the national income by bringing about an extension of cultivation. Their charities and benevolence brightened up the countryside and contributed towards its progress. In fact "it is the zamindars that made roads, drained swamps, excavated tanks, dug wells, and also laid the basis of cultural development of the country by establishing schools and other charitable institutions". Neither the Government nor the tenantry could do it. But when the Government were firmly seated on the saddle, the rights and privileges of the landlords were taken away one after the another, and the process is still continuing.

The zamindars were deprived of their ..... revenue. Most of the administrative duties discharged by them through the ages, such as the police duties, duties of guarding ghats, jurisdiction over petty civil court suits, maintenance of land revenue records, excavation of wells, tanks, and provision of irrigation works and embankments, maintenance of places of worship and religious and charitable institutions were taken over by Government. What is worse, some of the British officials did not fail to level charges of corruption and highhandedness against the zamindars. I wish corruption and high-handedness had ceased by the transfer of these duties to the Government ! The income of the landlords is limited, and the bulk of the benefit of the extension of agriculture goes to tenantry. If therefore the tenantry is not well off today it is not owing to the existence of landlords but other factors. The Bengal Land Revenue Commission has found that the ryotee rental is low, the ryots have greatest measures of rights, the cultivators in Bengal are as a whole better off than those in Madras and the United Provinces, and the Bengal ryots and even the underryots are better off than tenants under peasant proprietors of the Punjab in respect of rent and rights. What is true of Bengal is also true of Bihar and other Permanently Settled areas, and yet the Government did not extend the benefits of the Permanent Settlement to most parts of this country and gradually by levying direct taxation on land such as the agricultural income-tax, cess, etc., made the Permanent Settlement a meaningless term.

Leave aside the past. What is our position today ? The high price occasioned by the war situation has not increased the income of the landlords. It has certainly increased their expenditure by leaps and bound owing to their social position. Furthermore, war taxation has even reduced their fixed income. It will take too much of your time if I catalogue the imposition of new taxes on the agricultural community in various provinces. I leave it to our friends who have come here from various provinces to enlighten us fully about it. But I cannot refrain from referring to one of them against which there was unprecedented agitation in Bihar. I mean the enhancement of road cess. The original proposal was to double it and to constitute a separate fund with the enhanced amount for

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the purpose of post-war reconstruction. It was opposed not only by the landlords but by every one who has any political consciousness. The Congress-men, the Hindu Mahasabha, the Muslim League, the Kisan Sabha, members of both the houses of legislature, District Boards of almost all the districts condemned the proposal in no unmistakable term and urged upon the Government to drop it altogether. Later on it was modified by Government, and in the modified Bill the enhancement was reduced to 1/2 anna in a rupee from one anna in a rupee and the money was to go to the District Boards for improving education. The landlords were to automatically get back the refund of the cess on the rent reduced by the Reduction of Rent Act enacted by the Congress Government. It was also provided in the modified Bill that should the District Boards desire or the Government think fit in future the cess would be enhanced to the extent of another 1/2 anna.

I consider the modified Bill too, which has now become an Act, to be an obnoxious measure. Among other objectionable features you will note that :-

1. Though not a war measure it was enacted in the teeth of popular opposition by a Governor of a Province governed by Section 93 of the Government of India Act 1935. I do not think that the framers of the constitution ever thought that such laws would be enacted during emergency rule. The maintenance of law and order certainly does not depend upon it. Where stands today the time honoured democratic principle: "No taxation without representation."

2. It has once again infringed upon the Permanent Settlement, We have to recall to our mind the strong opposition of the Bengal Government to the original proposal to levy cess. They thought that by making the imposition they would be breaking their pledge to the landlords. It was by the casting vote of the then Secretary of State for India that the tax was first levied. Now this is the second occasion when again in violation of its former pledge and in utter disregard of public opinion Government have touched it. Does this not reduce the Permanent Settlement Regulation to a scrap of paper ?

3. It has taken no note of the capacity of the landlords to pay the enhanced taxation, specially when the period of depression is bound to follow the present period of inflation.

4. It is a tax on one particular community; namely the agriculturists, not for agricultural improvement but for the benefit of the population in general.

5. The collection of the tax being left in the hands of the landlords as before it gives greater scope for making the relationship between landlords and tenants more strained; and without any corresponding advantage, involves the landlords into the risk of paying a portion of the tenants' share as well from their own pocket.

What has happened in Bihar today can happen in other permanently settled areas, and it is, in this view of the matter, a subject which concerns the entire permanently settled area.

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I feel I must also refer to the possibility of another grim taxation measure which, if enacted, will mean an end of us all. I mean the proposed 'Death Duty'. Although we do not know the details of it and the matter is still under the consideration of Government, yet judging from the effects of a similar measure in other countries we can safely assume that it will sound death-knell of the ancient aristocracy and all it represents. Although it will affect the entire capitalist class, the landlord will be hit the hardest.

Thus we stand in relation to our rulers. When the war was declared we - one and all of us- pledged our unqualified support to the war-efforts, and we have been honouring and shall be honouring our pledge, for we cannot discard the excellent traits of Indian character and allow political expediency to change our colours. But that does not mean that we will allow our interests to suffer without protest and struggle.

Now, is there any redeeming feature in what the rulers have done to us in all these years? I see none. Where are the landholders in the national and international discussions that are being carried on from day to day throughout the world ? Have they any effective voice in the Government of their country ? I am aware that agricultural planning is going to play an important part in the post-war world and the Government is paying attention to it. But have the landholders, who are the pivot round which the agricultural economy moves, been asked to collaborate ? Why is their collaboration shunned ? Do not they represent an important element in rural and agricultural economy ? The Government of India, I note, has developed an extraordinary liking for foreign experts. It appears that they have no use for the practical knowledge of the people directly concerned with the problems they are dealing with. What a change it would have meant if instead of importing experts the Government of India would have, if necessary, sent people of this country connected with problems under investigation to other countries for gaining first-hand knowledge and experience. The notion that foreign experts are superior to Indian experts in regard to matters concerning India has always brought disaster to this country and resulted in the failure of every experiment that has been carried on in the political economic or social fields.

But whether the Government seeks our co-operation or not I wonder if it would not be worth our while to prepare a plan of agricultural improvement even unofficially. This is predominantly an agricultural country, and we will be really helping the industrialists who have framed the now famous "Bombay Plan". If with our practical knowledge of agricultural problems we tell them how in our opinion agriculture and industry should supplement and complement each other. They have treated agriculture merely as a side-show of industry. Perhaps that is not as it should be. Further, when the Government plan is unfolded it will also enable us to appreciate how far justice has been done to the problem. I would like you to consider this suggestion.

But looking at the apathy of the Government towards landlords as I have outlined, it

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is, time now that we should ask Government to state whether landlordism exists in their scheme of things and, if so, enunciate what their policy is towards landlords. As it is, we do not know where we stand. That uncertainty must be authoritatively removed, so that we may decide as to what we should do to safeguard our interests.

Coming to our own countrymen. I find that imported foreign ideas have brought into existence a class of people who see the salvation of this country in the destruction of private property and destruction of many more things which form the basis of our society. Their first attack is on the system of landlordism, perhaps because they think it to be the most vulnerable point. We can counteract the onslaught by exposing the disastrous consequences of their action and keeping our tenantry with us by personal contact and meeting their just demands. The roots of landlordism have gone so deep in the soil of this country that once it is destroyed it will tear into shreds the entire social and economic fabric of the country and plunge it into chaos. It is therefore in the interests of both the rulers and the ruled that the revolutionary programme of communists and the like should be kept in check if they wish law and order to prevail. No duly constituted Government can tolerate anarchy ! While depending on it, we on our part should be determined to do what lies in our power to arrest the growth of the menace and, when attacked, meet the aggressors on their own grounds. I believe we still have got the ability and strength to look after ourselves. If these people succeed against one economic interest it will be easy for them to succeed against another. So it is reasonable to expect that we shall have the co-operation of the entire body of those who have private properties, in our endeavour to thwart the nefarious attempt of these products of foreign theories.

I have always maintained that the landlords, tenants and agricultural labourers are partners of a common enterprise viz., the improvement of agriculture. On their harmonious relationship depends the properity of all of them - nay of the nation. We in Bihar have always strived to adjust our differences. It was a zamindar, Rai Bahadur Shyamnandan Sahay, the present Honorary Secretary of the Bihar Landholders' Association, who piloted a Bill in the Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council under the Montford constitution and gave away all those rights to the tenants that were settled by compromise with those who were at that time the leaders of tenants. Again, when the Congress party swept the polls in the elections held under the present constitution and brought forward fresh demands on behalf of the tenants the representative of the Bihar Landholders' Association settled the matter by compromise and relieved the tenantry of much of the hardships that were caused by the last world-wide depression, although in doing so they themselves were put to great financial loss and trouble. If there may still be the danger of agrarian trouble, and perhaps there is, it is due to the fact that the mischief-makers are abroad to feed the ignorant tenantry with false hopes or the landlords are too short-sighted to make reasonable adjustments. Both of these are to be deprecated. I am not aware of the details of what is happening in other provinces. Nevertheless, I venture to think that the best policy that

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we can pursue towards our tenants is to save them from ruin and make them discharge the obligation they owe to us. I am aware that the moral basis on which the relationship of the landlords and tenants existed in the past is fast disappearing, and the relationship is being established on legal basis. I deplore it. But we have to take things as they are and do what we can in the existing circumstances to ensure fairness to all the three component parts of the organization that works for the improvement of agriculture.

The political horizon of the country is absolutely dark. Democracy, it seems, has been put in the cold storage for the duration of war. The Congressmen, who as the result of the 1936 elections were in a position to form Governments in provinces ruled at present under Section 93 of the Government of India Act, are keeping aloof. There is, however, a growing feeling in the country that any Government will be better than the present-day 'one-man' rule in those provinces. So, between the Congress and the British Government the political progress of the country has completely stopped. I think things would not have been so bad if the Federal part of the constitution would also have been brought into operation. But now no one can say how things will develop. Although I am opposed to the vivisection of India in any shape, I am keenly desirous of Hindu-Moslem unity. I ask myself, will Gandhiji succeed in his mission ? With hope and fear, our eyes are turned towards Bombay ! But let us hold our breath in patience, for the issues are large and complicated and the nature of negotiations delicate.

Gentlemen ! Before I resume my seat I would like to emphasize that it is a matter of paramount importance to us that our organization, both central and provincial, may remain a live and vigilant body and we should all remain closely linked to one another. It is only when we are ourselves strong and organized that we will be able to make our voice effective. I trust that your recommendations for action to the entire body of landlords will be such as will infuse fresh life in them and remove the despondency and feeling of frustration which the all-round depressing atmosphere has cast on them. We have met at a place sanctified by the dust of our forefathers. If these walls could speak it would unfold many a closed chapter of the political history of this country. It would prove the truth of the assertions I have made. May the association of this hall where Indian nationalism was born inspire our deliberation ! May God illumine what is dark in us and raise and support what is low !

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LANDHOLDERS' MEMORANDUM BEFORE THE CABINET MISSION

15 APRIL, 1946

The Hon'ble The Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga, The Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Bardwan and The Maharaja Kumar of Vizianagram submitted a joint memorandum to the British Cabinet Mission on behalf of the Landlords of India. Their interview with the cabinet Mission took place on the 15th April 1946. In the course of the memorandum they endorsed the general demand for the transfer of power to Indians, and they stood for united India. The transfer of power and the unity of India are the essential pre-requisites for the development or India. The memorandum states :- "India stands for world peace; she has an important part to play in the regeneration of the reconstructed world. Her geo-politics marks India out to be a great power in Asia, and she cannot possibly give her best, towards the recovery of her self towards the stabilization of order and harmony in the world, unless she gets full facilities and perfect freedom to shape her own destiny. More over, the transfer of power should take place in an atmosphere of good will and trust on both sides. The delegation stands for orderly progress and political evolution through constitutional means and is opposed to corruptive and subversive methods. It, however, apprehends that if India is denied the right to carve out her own orderly life through negotiations, it will be difficult, nay impossible, to check the pace of revolutionary forces upsetting and uprooting the given basis. Today, India is in a positive mood to negotiate the terms for the transfer of power. The sense of frustration that will follow the failure of the Mission will be terrible for India, and indeed tragic for the present and the future Indo-British relations."

The Delegation in the course of the Memorandum suggested that the terms for the transfer of power to India were to be negotiated on the following basic foundations :-

(a) That there should be an Indian union with the utmost autonomy to the constituent units.

(b) That there is necessity of coming to favourable terms with Great Britain on the questions of trade and commerce, on matters of defense and on India's relations with the other countries of the world.

(c) That no vested rights in or over land and any commercial undertaking and any other property are to be confiscated without adequate compensation, assuring the existing return to the respective investors.

Dealing with the special demands of the landowning community of India, the memorandum stated as follows :-

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"The land-owning interests should find adequate representation:

(a) In the discussion or the conference when the term of the transfer of power to Indians shall be negotiated in consultation with the representatives of British India and the Indian States ;

(b) In the constitution-making body ;

(c) In the Executive Council at the Centre, if and when it is reconstituted for the interim period."

Developing their special demands, the Memorandum urged as follows:-

"The Delegation considers it very essential that there should be statutory safeguards against expropriatory legislation. Today landlords stand on very shaking grounds. The constitution Act merely provides that there shall be the payment of compensation for the property acquired for public purposes only. Landlords have no legal relief if their rights are extinguished or modified without acquisition for public purposes or if there is inadequate compensation in the event of compulsory acquisition for public purposes. True, there are directions in the instruments of instructions to the Governor-General and the Governor, which ensure its consideration by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, but they are proving illusory. In the future arrangement His Majesty's Government shall have to disclaim all responsibility in the matter of safeguarding land-owning interest. This emphasizes the case for statutory provision that no vested rights in or over land and any other property would be extinguished without guaranteeing the existing net income of the landlords or investors as the case may be, the actual amount being assessed either by arbitration or under a judicial procedure."

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MEMORANDUM
OF THE ALL INDIA LANDHOLDERS' DELEGATION
TO THE BRITISH CABINET MISSION

1. Historical Introduction :

There are numerous historical documents bearing upon the original status and rights of the land-owning classes of British India. The All India Landholder's Delegation, for the purpose of this Memorandum invites attention to the following observation in the Montague-Chelmsford Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms, which epitomizes their position:-

"The natural and acknowledged leaders in the country, are the landed aristocracy. They generally represent ancient and well-born families and their estates are often the result of conquest or grants from some mediaeval monarch."

Representatives of the landholding classes of India belonging to different provinces, placed their claims before the Joint Parliamentary Committee in 1933, for a statutory acknowledgement of their proprietary rights of a permanent character in land, and for the provision of relevant safeguards in the Constitution Act. They further asked for adequate representation through special constituencies in the Provincial and the Central Legislatures. In the case of the landholders of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Madras and portions of the United Provinces, there was an additional claim of a specific nature, namely that the permanent settlement of land revenue payable by the landlords in these areas, should be statutorily guaranteed. The Joint Parliamentary Committee dealt with these questions in paragraphs 369 to 872 of their Report. The Committee expressed the view that some general provision should be inserted in the Constitution Act safeguarding private property of all kinds against expropriation. The Committee made a special reference, in this connection, to certain grants of land, or of tenure of land, held in virtue of a specific undertaking given on behalf of the British Government that these rights will be respected either for all time or for the duration of the grant. While not prepared to recommend a statutory declaration which would have the effect of maintaining unaltered and unalterable for all time every promise or undertaking of the kind made by the British Government in the past the Committee recommended that the Constitution Act should require the prior consent of the Governor-General or Governor (as the case may be) to any proposal, legislative or executive, which was to alter or prejudice the rights of the possessor of any privilege of this kind. The Committee next considered the case of the Zemindars and others who enjoy the benefits of the Permanent Settlement. In dealing with this class of landholders, the Committee recognized that the alteration of the character of the Permanent Settlement of land revenue "would involve directly or indirectly the interests

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of vast numbers of the population" and "might indeed produce an economic revolution of a most far-reaching character." The Committee obviously took into account the fact that permanent subordinate rights of various degrees had been created in land under the Permanent Settlement, as a vital factor in the economic life of society at large. The Committee did not dispute the fact that "the declaration as to the permanence of the Settlement could not have been departed from by the British Government so long as that Government was in effective control of land revenue." But at the same time the Committee did not desire to place beyond the legal competence of the future legislature to alter the enactments embodying the Permanent Settlement. Nevertheless the Committee felt that the Permanent Settlement was not a matter for which, as the result of the introduction of Provincial autonomy, His Majesty's Government could properly disclaim all responsibility. The Committee, therefore, recommended that "the Governor should be instructed to reserve for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure any Bill passed by the Legislature which would alter the character of the Permanent Settlement."

Section 299 of the Government of India Act, 1935, carries out the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee against expropriation of private property in British India. Section 300 of the Act gives further protection regarding the exercise of the executive authority of the Federation or a Province in derogation from any grant or confirmation of title or to land etc. by prescribing that such authority shall not be exercised save on an order of the Governor General or Governor (as the case may be) in the exercise of his individual judgement.

As regards the Permanent Settlement, the recommendation of the Joint Parliamentary Committee has been embodied in the instrument of instructions to the Provincial Governors concerned to the following effect:-

"Our Governor shall not assent in our name to, but shall reserve for the consideration of Governor-General ... (d) any Bill which would alter the character of the Permanent Settlement."

Though no definite statutory guarantees are provided for, it may perhaps be presumed that His Majesty's Government intended to intervene in certain circumstances for the protection of the rights accruing under Permanent Settlement. The nature of the action that might be taken under this procedure would perhaps depend upon the policy of the Government of the day, as also upon the merits of the legislative proposal concerned.

Apart from the specific constitutional safeguards referred to above, section 52 of the Government of India Act prescribes the special responsibilities of the Governor including protection of minorities. The term minorities' has been defined in a very general way in the instrument of instructions, so that those classes which whether on account of smallness of their number or from any other cause cannot rely for their welfare on joint political

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action in the legislature, shall not suffer. The landholders have been allotted 37 seats in eleven Provincial legislatures under the Constitution Act of 1935 by way of acknowledgement of their special interests But as this representation is wholly inadequate for the purpose of enabling them to safeguard their rights and interests, the landholders may perhaps claim to be treated, in the language of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, as a well defined section of the population who may from time to time require protection under section 52 (1) (b) of the Government of India Act, 1935 in certain circumstances.

The safeguards referred to above fall far short of the demands of the landholding interests in India : and the course of events subsequent to the promulgation of the Constitution Act of 1935 in the Province, indicates that these safeguards may prove wholly ineffective for the purpose of affording adequate protection to the interests of landholders.

History bears testimony to the fact that before the Permanent Settlement, there were different classes of Zemindars, firstly the original independent chiefs ; secondly, the old established landholding families who were *de facto* rulers in their estates ; thirdly, the collectors of revenue introduced by the Moghul Government, and fourthly, the farmers who had been in charge of the collections of revenue after the grant of the Dewani. The effect of the Permanent Settlement, so far as the Zemindars were concerned, was to level all classes under the same denomination.

The Permanent Settlement was a solemn pledge of the British Govt. of the day. Fully relying on the sacrosanct character of the Permanent Settlement, many people not originally belonging to the landholding classes invested their savings in the purchase of Zemindari from time to time in the same manner as people invest their funds in Government securities. Zemindaries have changed hands frequently, and purchases have been made at full value. These private investments are being assailed when rights in or over land are sought to be confiscated.

2. Function of the Mission :-

The landholder's Delegation notes that the British Cabinet Mission has come out to India with plenary powers and determination to help the attainment of freedom of India in the best interests of England and India. The Delegation welcomes this new move in the history of Indo-British relations. It is a historical Mission invested with special significance and authority to make momentous decisions in the matter of molding the destiny of India with the ultimate objective of bringing about a cordial relationship between this great country and Great Britain which it so earnestly desires.

Lord Wavell, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, announced on the 19th of September 1945 that "His Majesty's Government are determined to do their utmost to

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promote, in conjunction with leaders of Indian opinion, the early realization of full self Government in India" and "that His Majesty's Government are proceeding to the consideration of the contents of the treaty which will require to be concluded between Great Britain and India."

On the authority of the British Prime Minister it is expected that Lord Wavell's announcement will be implemented by the Mission. The Viceroy's announcement, read with the declarations made by the Rt. Hon. Lord Pathick-Lawrence in the House of Lords and the Rt. Hon. C.R. Attlee in the House of Commons on the 19th of February 1946, indicates that the Mission will take positive steps :-

(a) To hold preparatory discussions with the representatives of British India and Indian States in order to secure the widest measure of agreement as to the method of framing a constitution;

(b) To set up a constitution making body ; and

(c) To bring into being an Executive Council at the center, having the support of the main Indian parties :

3. Demands of the Landholders :

The landholders' Delegation takes this opportunity to urge that the land-owning interest should find effective representation :

(a) In the Discussion or the conference when the terms of the transfer of power to Indians shall be negotiated in consultation with the representatives of British India and Indian States ;

(b) In the constitution making body ; and

(c) In the Executive Council at the Centre, If and when it is reconstituted for the interim period :

The Delegation seeks to make the following submission in support of its foregoing demands :

First the Delegation considers it very essential that there should be statutory safeguards against expropriatory legislation. Today, landlords stand on very shaking grounds. The Constitution Act merely provides that there shall be the payment of compensation for the property acquired for public purposes only. Landlords have no legal relief if their rights are extinguished or modified without acquisition for public purposes or if there is inadequate compensation in the event of compulsory acquisition for public purposes. True, there are directions in the instruments of Instructions to the Governor – General and the Governor which ensure its consideration by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, But if there is the democratic working of parliamentary Government in

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British Indian provinces, such safeguards are bound to prove illusory. In fact, on analogies of legislation dealing with rights in or over land and with the taxation of incomes from agricultural lands, the Delegation finds that landowners stand today shorn of any effective safeguards although the arrangement for ultimate reference to His Majesty's Govt. is recognized. The mission has come with the specific purpose for the transfer of power to Indians, and accordingly, in the future arrangement, His Majesty's Government shall have to disclaim all responsibility in the matter of safeguarding land-owning interest.This emphasises as the case for statutory provision that no vested rights in or over land and any other property would be extinguished without guaranteeing the existing net income of the landlords or investors as the case may be, the actual amount being assessed either by arbitration or under a judicial procedure. The Delegation is convinced that the interests of the country do not call for revolutionary changes such as the scrapping of private landlordism with which the middle classes and the given social economy are bound up. The shaking up of the Zamindary system will produce cracks in the entire rural economy of the country, an eventuality which should not be contemplated light-heartedly. The Delegation is asking for statutory safeguards of rights in or over land so that the eventuality envisaged may not jeopardize the existing social fabric of the country, leaving chaos, confusion, ill-will, and bitter resentment in its trail. In this context, the Delegation desires to make its position clear. It endorses the general demand for the transfer of power to Indians. India stands for world peace; she has an important part to play in the regeneration of the reconstructed world. Her geopolitic marks India out to be a great power in Asia, and she cannot possibly give her best, towards the recovery of her self, towards the stabilization of order and harmony in the world, unless she gets full facilities and perfect freedom to shape her own destiny. Moreover, the transfer of power should take place in an atmosphere of goodwill and trust on both sides, and not in a state of convulsion and embitterment in Indo-British relations. The Delegation stands for orderly progress and political evolution through constitutional means and is opposed to disruptive and subversive methods. It however apprehends that if India is denied the right to carve out here own orderly life through negotiations, it will be difficult, nay impossible, to check the pace of revolutionary forces upsetting and uprooting the given basis. Today, India is in a positive mood to negotiate terms for the transfer of power. The sense of frustration that will follow the failure of the Mission will be terrible for India, and indeed tragic for the present and the future Indo-British relations. The Delegation therefore categorically places that the terms for the transfer of power to India are to be negotiated on the following basic foundations :

(a) That there should be an Indian union with the utmost autonomy to the constituent units;

(b) That there is necessity of coming to favourable terms with Great Britain on the questions of trade and commerce, on matters of defence and on India's relations with the other countries of the world ;

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(c) That no vested rights in or over land and any commercial undertaking and any other property are to be liquidated without adequate compensation, assuring the existing returns to the respective investors.

All this definitely calls for the summoning of a Conference to negotiate the terms of settlement for the transfer of power, subject to specific conditions to be mutually agreed upon and to be incorporated in the form of a treaty. The Delegation is of the opinion that as landlords have special interests to safeguard, their case for special representation in a Conference of the kind contemplated is unanswerable and having regard to the historical circumstances and to the social and economic contents relating to the Zemindary system in India land – owners are entitled to consultation and collaboration at all stages especially when Britain is transferring power to India.

Secondly, the Delegation finds that the Mission will carry out the declared policy of the British Government, the policy that the framing of the future constitution of India is a matter exclusively for Indian people. Accordingly, a Constituent Assembly will be setup. The method and manner of election of the Constituent Assembly have not yet been decided upon. The functions, the procedure and the composition of the constitution making body are to be settled in consultation with the representative of the Indian people. The Delegation, therefore, urges that the land-owning community should be represented in the proposed Constituent Assembly.

The land-owning community has a vast stake in the country. Agriculture forms the two-thirds of national dividend, and in the agricultural economy of the country landholders play a prominent part. Agriculture is at once a credit, a business and manner of life landlords are great economico-social factors in the country.

When power is being transferred and a new constitution drafted, the land-owning community has a case to represent and interests to guard. The Consitiution Act has direct relation to the preservation of the rights in or over land and as such the land-owning community is vitally interested in the character of the new constitution.

The Constituent Assembly should represent the given progressive social forces of the country, and it is through the aid of the Constitution Act that social transformation will take place. Landlords are believers in such constitutional development. Accordingly, they must be given facilities to make their contributions to the drawing up of the new constitution.

Thirdly, the Delegation notes that in terms of the September announcement of Lord Wavell, the Viceroy's Executive Council will be reconstituted soon after the election with representatives of different parties. To facilities this, the Government of India Act has been suitably amended. It is evident that during the interim period, many important decisions on post war reconstruction programme will be recorded and pursued, and accordingly,

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many important subjects have been centralized. The case for the reconstruction of the Executive Council was put forward by Lord Wavell in the following terms :-

During these preparatory stages the Government of India must be carried on, and urgent economic and social problems must be dealt with. Furthermore, India has to play her full part in working out the new world order. His Majesty's Government have, therefore, further authorised me, as soon as the results of the provincial elections are published, to take steps to bring into being an Executive Council which will have the support of the main Indian parties.

Food is centralized, and the Agricultural plan is proposed to be drawn up and pushed through under the auspices of the Central Government. In the circumstances, it is so very essential that the landholding community of India should have at least one representative in the Executive Council at the Centre - The laying down of food policy and agricultural plan involves risks of interference with the existing land system in the country, particularly when land tenure is an important factor in agricultural production. Repercussions of the new agricultural policy on land tenures are to be watched and examined carefully in the interests of peaceful evolution of agricultural economy. It underlines the need for the representation of the landholding community in the Central Executive. The problems of agriculture are partly technical, partly financial and commercial, and partly cultural and social. All facets of the problem cannot be appreciated by any person having no living and dynamic relations with the land-owning community in the country.

In the circumstances, and in view of the foregoing submissions the landholders' Delegation solicits that the land-owning community should, in all fairness to its own cause and to the cause of India, be effectively represented in all the stages of negotiation, culminating in effective implementation of the transfer of power to Indians.

It may be stated that this Memorandum represents generally the views of all grades of landlords in British India, such as Zemindars, Taluqdars, Sirdars, Inamdars, Jagirdara and other denominations.

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Darbhanga House
Patna

24.4.48

My dear Mishraji,

Contrary to what the Revenue Minister said in the presence of Rajendra Babu (that the abolition of zamindari Bill would be taken up in the Upper Chamber on the 1st May) the Bill was laid on the table of our House yesterday and it will be proceeded with from the 27th instant. Notice of amendments can be given upto the 26th instant. I tried to ring you up last night and this morning but the Darbhanga line was out of order. It is essential that you should come immediately to Patna so that before the notice of amendments are given on the 26th, you, may see them and suggest further amendments if necessary. Chandreshwar Babu has given me a set of amendment and also the Bihar Landholders'Association.

I had a talk on phone last night with His Highness and I acquainted him with the situation. A wire has been sent to Rajendra Babu for the postponement of the discussion in the Upper Chamber, but I do not think it will materialise.

It is essential that the draft of the memorials to the Governor and Governor-General with regard to withholding assent to this Bill be ready so that they be submitted as soon as the Bill goes through the Upper Chamber. You can very well realise my worry and difficulty at this moment. I hope you will come by the first available train or by plane so that you may be here by tomorrow or in any case by the morning of the 26th instant.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
G.Sinha

To
Pandit Girindramohan Mishra
Assistant Manager, Raj Darbhanga
Darbhanga

EXPRESS TELEGRAM (25.4.48)

HAVE RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM CONGRESS PRESIDENT DR.RAJENDRA PRASAD THAT WORKING COMMITTEE WILL MEET LANDLORDS DEPUTATION REGARDING ZAMINDARI ABOLITION ON FIRST MAY MORNING STOP YOUR PRESENSE ESSENTIAL KINDLY REACH DELHI THIRTIETH APRIL WIRE DARBHANGA ADDRESS

MAHARAJA DARBHANGA.

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...As the result of this **Select Committee's amendment,** the compensation payable has become more than double .....All this increase will go to zamindars whose income is below 4 lakhs and they will also get something additional from what is taken away from those whose income is more than 4 lakhs, because the minimum payable before was five times the net revenue on incomes of over 50,000. Now it has been reduced to 3 times on incomes of over 4 lakhs, while the compensation payable on incomes between 50,000 and 4 lakhs varies between 7 times and 3 times. The net result of the Select Committee's report has been that the smaller landlords have good reason to be satisfied, but the bigger landlords have no reason to become more dissatisfied than they were before. But, the number of zamindars who will come in the category of zaminmdars having more than 4 lakhs on which only 3 times will be paid as compensation will be very small. They will practically be **only six States of Darbhanga, Bettiah, Dumraon, Hathua, Ramgarh and Ratu which will be hit**.....I think **the Maharaja of Darbhanga is still there. If you could have a talk with him in the presence of Revenue Minister**, perhaps some way could be found without postponing the Bill to give these six landlords some satisfaction.....

At one stage the **Select Committee has resolved to fix a ceiling** and not to allow more than 25 lakhs as compensation to anyone whatever his income from his zamindari might be. **When Sardar went to Patna, he objected to the ceiling put, and so that ceiling has been dropped.**

I received a telegram from the Maharaja of Darbhanga two or three days ago in which he complained that another Bill was going to be introduced raising the rate of agricultural income-tax.

.....Part of letter From **Dr. Rajendra Prasad to M.A.K.Azad**

Dr. Rajendra Prasad : Correspondence and Select Documents, Vol. 8, pg. 169

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Darbhanga House
Patna

26.4.48

Your Highness,

On my return from the Flying Club after Your Highness had left yesterday, I received the enclosed telegram addressed to Your Highness, by Dr.Rajendra Prasad, immediately I rang up Darbhanga, Your Highness had not arrived but Kumar Saheb responded and I dictated to him the text of the telegram for transmision to Your Higness on arrival. I trust he has done the needful.

As desired I have sent telegrams to landholders of different Provinces. A copy of the text of the telegram and the addresses to which they have been sent, is enclosed for Your Higness's perusal.

Yesterday evening and this morning I was mostly with Mishraji in connection with the drafting amendments so far I have given notice of 65 amendments. We had been to Sir Sultan and Sir Chandreshwara.

I rang up Krishnaballabh Sahay, this morning and asked him that in view of the fact that the ..... committee of the Congress is meeting the deputation of landlords at Delhi on the 1st May, and he has been called there on 30th the discussion in the chamber should not start tomorrow. He said that I should contact the Prime Minister who had arrived Patna and he would abide by his orders. I accordingly contacted the Prime Minister this afternoon and he told me that he had asked Krishnaballabh Sahay to postpone consideration of abolition of Zamindari Bill to 3rd May,'48. I have been trying to get Krishnaballabh Sahay on phone after my talk with the Prime Minister but so far I have not been able to contact him. I shall try again tomorrow morning.

This evening I have received a letter from the Revenue Minister, a copy of which I enclose for Your Highness's perusal. Personally I do not want to go to Delhi but in view of this letter I think I should go. Now the question is whether it is possible for me to accompany Your Highness in aeroplane or to go by train which ofcourse will be extremely tiring. Sir Sultan told Mishraji that he would require accommodation for three persons in the "plane". Sir Chandreshwara told us that Krishnaballabh Sahay has requested ..... to take him also in the 'plane' and he had agreed to do so. I think Mishraji must be in Delhi during discussions. He has returned to Darbhanga by 2p.m. ..... today and perhaps it will be possible for him to see Your Highness tomorrow evening.

With profound regards,
I remain
Ever yours
Sd/-
G. Sinha

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA

SPEECH OF MAHARAJADHIRAJA SIR KAMESHWAR SINGH OF DARBHANGA

OPPOSING THE NATURE OF ARTICLE 24

(ABOLITION OF ZAMINDARI ACT BROUGHT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA)

AS INTRODUCED IN THE ASSEMBLY FOR APPROVAL.

12TH SEPTEMBER, 1949.

Shri Kameshwar Singh of Darbhanga : (Bihar : General) : Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to have my say on this very important item of the Constitution. It embodies the principle and lays down the procedure according to which a private property has to be dealt with by the State when it is necessary to acquire it for public purposes.

It gave me a rude shock when I read the amendment proposed by no less a person than our Prime Minister and such legal luminaries and constitutional experts as the Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Shri Alladi Krishna swami Ayyar, Shri K.M.Munshi and the Honourable the Premier of the United Provinces. I fail to understand as to how such eminent men could subscribe to the proposition that if a confiscatory law is passed after the commencement of the Constitution it is justiciable; whereas if such a law is either pending or has been passed before the commencement of the Constitution it becomes non-justiciable. I ask the House and the mover himself to consider whether such a discrimination is fair or just.

By excluding these two classes of legislations from law courts, is it not admitted by the authors of this amendment that the provisions' of these legislations are so unjust and improper that they cannot stand the scrutiny of the Law courts? In fact, clauses (4) and (6) of the amendment contravene the letter and spirit of the general principles enunciated in the article and negate the recommendations of the Fundamental Rights Committee already adopted by the House and incorporated in the Draft Constitution. They permit even confiscatory legislation approved by the executive authority to go unchallenged and deny to a section of the people the protection which the Constitution affords to others. Does it behove such an august Assembly as this to discard principles and disfigure the, edifice which is sought to be built on the four pillars of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity, by introducing inequitous discrimination ? We know that the Constitution guarantees certain Fundamental Rights to all citizens and creates a forum for the protection of those rights. Now does it not betray lack of confidence even in the highest judicial tribunal of this land which will be set up to uphold the- rule of law ? I feel constrained to submit that I never expected that the eminent persons who are associated with the amendment would adopt this attitude.

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Only the other day, H. E. the Governor General of India made a significant observation regarding the role of the judiciary in the democratic set-up of the country. He said

"It is by impartial interpretation of law and independent dispensation of justice between man and man and between State and subject that the judiciary holds aloft the banner of democracy which can sustain only by instilling the confidence in the poorest of the land that his wrong will be redressed and his justifiable grievances redeemed."

Clauses (4) and (6) of the amendment, as the House will notice, deny the aggrieved party the right to go to the court of law and this places the executive authority in the position of an autocrat.

I would like the House to appreciate that the underlying principles of the Constitution we are giving to ourselves guarantee the right of personal liberty and it is based on common rights and reason-the fundamental principle of all democracy. Now, is such a discrimination as is sought to be introduced by the amendment compatible with common rights and reason? Is it not tainted with prejudice and bias created by circumstances that have now changed?

I am aware of the fact that the Congress Party, which is in an overwhelming majority in the House, is pledge-bound to abolish the Zamindari system but it is equally pledge-bound to do so on payment of equitable compensation. Now, in implementing the first part of its pledge, is it not fighting shy of implementing its second part, by preventing the question of the abuse of power by State legislature in the matter of the determination of compensation from going to the judiciary ? As Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has himself remarked: "Parliament fixes either the compensation itself or the principles governing that compensation and they should not be challenged except for one reason. Where it is thought that there has been a gross abuse of the law, where, in fact, there has been a fraud ..... naturally, the judiciary comes in to see if there has been a fraud on the Constitution or not", but so far pending legislations and recent enactments are concerned even for this limited purpose judiciary has been shut out. This distinction, I humbly submit, is extremely unfair.

Then again clauses (4) and (6) of the amendment discriminate ....., between the provinces of Madras, Bihar and U.P. and other provinces, between Zamindari property and other kinds of properties and provide loop-holes for provinces to enact confiscatory legislations, if they so desire before the commencement of the Constitution. The amendment in fact, has retrospective effect and takes away the justiciable rights even with regard to section 299 of the Government, of India Act. The amendment enunciates a very vicious principle. It is vicious because it virtually discriminates between one kind of private property and another. It is vicious because it treats one section, of the citizens of the Indian Union differently from another. It is vicious because it sanctions virtual

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expropriation of private properties. I would humbly entreat the supporters of the amendments not to introduce the vicious principle in the Constitution. If they do so, what at present is misfortune for some of us, may be a misfortune for the country as a whole. The Congress Organisation has built up a career on great and noble principles. The destiny of the country has passed into its hands and it has great duties to discharge and heavy responsibilities to shoulder. I would implore the Mover of the amendment not to get anything done by the Assembly which might either militate against the priniciples adopted by the great Organisation or be contrary to the pledge given by it in pursuance of its principles.

Maharajadhiraja with Lord Mountbaten and Lady Edwina Mountbaten
at Darbhanga House, New Delhi

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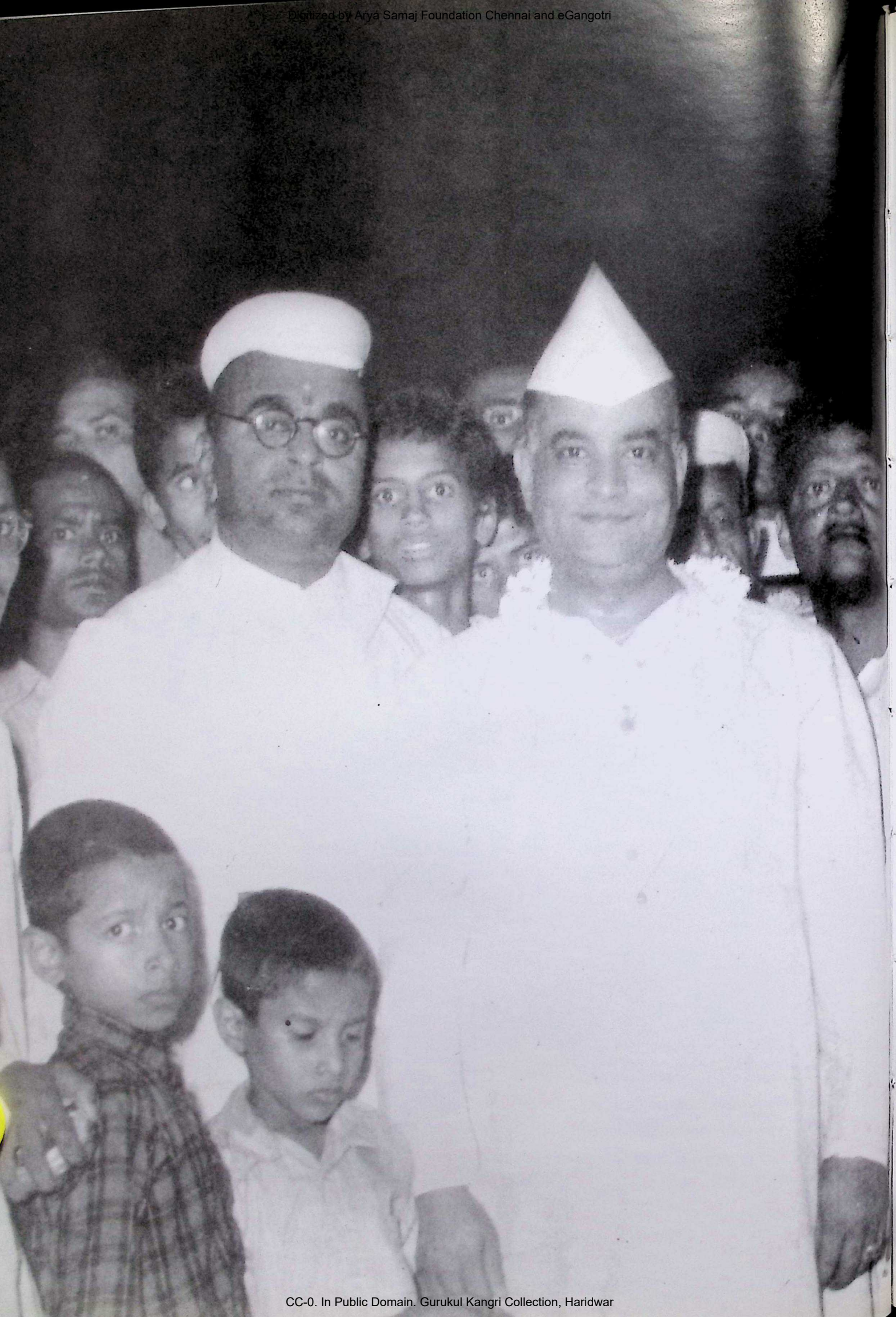

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Village Co-operative Programme

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CONFIDENTIAL

PROGRAMME FOR WORK

It will be convenient if we put our ideas together at one place and draw up a sort of time table. This will introduce a method in our new system of work and will help us to regulate our work according to scheduled timing as far as possible.

For clarity of thought, we will put the work that we propose to do under three heads Viz. (i) Mass uplift work (2) Publicity (3) Organisation of Reforms Office at Patna. In this note, I propose to take up the first two items only. I will take the third separately.

Gurukula Kangri (Deemed to be University) Haridwar 184585

MASS UPLIFT :

For mass uplift work, we have decided to take 3 officers. We will first take up Darbhanga district and cut it into 3 portions. The Kosi belt comprising 3 thanas - Biroul, Madhepur and Phulparas will form the base of the operation and it should be placed incharge of one Officer preferably B. Bulaki Lal Mehta who knows the area. The rest of the district may be cut into two portions – North-west-block to be put in charge of one Officer preferably, Jagdish Babu and the South west Block to be placed in charge of Bindeshwari Babu.

It has been previously agreed to start off on the 1st March. Misserji will open the operation in all the three blocks one after the other and then, the Officers will carry on. On each day, Misserji will be accompanied by the Officer concerned for that area, the Assistant registrar and the President of the District Congress Committee, if he is keen on it. We will have to get the list of villages from the Assistant Registrar in which Multipurpose Co-operation Societies are under force and the Panchayats have been constituted. A list will be given to each of these Officers and he will be requested to draw up his own programme for the month of March and send it for approval. They should be given a Clerk and a peon each. In case of any difficulty, they will make a reference to Misserji and we will also arrange later on for occasional supervision of their work.

We will have to place 2 Jeeps exclusively for Mass central work. We will co-operate with all village workers without any distinction of party affiliations provided only, if they are real workers and they are honest and sincere in their intentions.

PUBLICITY :

We are all agreed that work-good solid work, first, and publicity next. It is also my considered advice that there should be no hurry or impatience about the announcement of the Maharaja. Let our work start. Let people understand our scheme and intentions. We should be deliberately slow and cautious what we say about our own work or intentions.

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It comes therefore to this that if we start our work on the 1st March, 1st the Press correspondent report (App.I) go first -say, on the 2nd March. Then, after a few days, say, on the 5th March we come out with a statement to the Press (App.ll) I would suggest that this statement should be given by Misserji and that it should appear in his name. Then the Maharaja makes an announcement.

I am still, of the opinion, that we should create a special occasion for the announcement. We go fairly fast by our village work and comparatively slow with its publicity-so far, as we are concerned. The Press Reporters should continue to send a report on the village work after every 2-3 days. It should thus be possible, by the end of March, to have achieved something substantial. And then, we shall hold a sort of Darbar in the 1st weak of April. By that time, we will have created the correct impression about what we are going to do. If we make the announcement before the work has proceeded a little, it might be taken to mean more than what we want to do that might prove embarrassing. This timing for announcement concides with the visit of Hon'ble Pt. Nehru to Muzaffarpur and Hon'ble Gadgill to Madhepur.

From the 1st March to 7th March, we have to do intensive propaganda. The Bill is going to be introduced on the 7th March. That we have always to keep in view. Aryavarta and Mithila Mihir being hindi papers will be particularly good and useful. Dr. Sen is coming on the 28th Misserji will contact him. Other 2 Hindi Editors should also see Misserji and he will disclose to them his line of thought which they will develop in their own way.

About village work also, there should be no misunderstanding. We want quality of work which should not be sacrificed for speed or quantity. This will do at the outset.

R. JHA
Spl. Officer, R.D.

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No. D.R. 1-1/42

Patna
the 15th March 1949

To
G.P. Danby Esqr.
Chief Manager, R.D.
Darbhanga

Dear Sir,

I am to invite your attention to Rule 127 of the Government State manual which lays down that the cost of Management in a Government Estate shall not be more than 8.5 % of the average of the preceding 3 years actual collections, (Extract enclosed).

We have to consider our position with regard to this rule as to how we may be adversely affected, in case, the State Management bill passes into law and our estate is taken over against our wishes.

We have to be prepared for the worst though, we shall try our best to avert it, But the point is, that in case,they take over suddenly and they take it with a high percentage of cost of management. It will put us into a very embarrassing position later on.

I do not know the exact position but in case, our percentage is so high that the cost of management plus taxes plus what we are now proposing to give to the villagers, may leave us nothing or a very narrow margin by way of net savings, I would suggest that it be brought down to the percentage provided in the Government State Manual or to any reasonable rock bottom percentage that you may be pleased to fix, so that we may, laer on the analogy of the rule referred to above, be able to claim from Government the entire surplus balance after deducting the cost of management and the taxes and may be able to ask them to spend any thing out of our surplus balance without our express consent.

In my view, the matter is vitally urgent. We have to give effect to our measures, if any, before Government is likely to take over.

R. Jha
Special Officer
15.03.1949

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Maharajadhiraja at Sarisabpahi Village

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the prominent people of the region

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MULTI - PURPOSE SCHEME

In my previous note I had observed that a break in the continuity of the flow of field work of this scheme and field publicity was to be greatly regretted and that this flow has to be maintained at any cost. I had also suggested in that note that I would be starting my whirlwind campaign from the 15th instant and it is my earnest intention that once we start, we should not halt or falter or look back for anything. I am, therefore, giving below a comprehensive note on each point for necessary action.

OFFICERS :-

Deputation of officers to the areas of work is essential. In this fortnight my programme is to take up the extensive aspect of the work so as to put one officer at least, in charge of this work in Darbhanga, Saharsa and Purnea districts. The effects of this will be to put up a programme of work before people and go to work up the old feeling of enthusiasm that may have got waxed and become cold in the interval of in-action that has followed. I would, therefore, suggest that 3 suitable Offices have to be kept ready for this purpose. As soon as the work of extensive campaign has once been gone through, the Officers concerned will start intensive work in their respective areas – Five villages to begin with in every unit.

CONVEYANCE :-

The second important point is that we must have at least 3 jeeps kept exclusively reserved for this work not only to facilitate our work and touring but also to give convenience to such workers as like to accompany us in these tours.

FIELD PUBLICITY :-

Thirdly, about the field publicity work I would suggest that such suitable lasting arrangement may please be made through our local press correspondent that the continuity in publicity may be kept maintained. About the Camera-man, Someone among the staff may have the requisite test and training in this work and he may perhaps be transferred to our Section.

Fourthly, we have to set up a separate Department for village welfare with an office separate from the management branch and a self contained one, if possible. All that is necessary is to allot a building, to put a conspicuous sign-board there both in English and in Hindi and to put a clerk and a peon to start with, in that office. I would suggest that the Typist, Rameshwar Prasad who came with me in the first trip to Patna would be very suitable for this purpose. The English nomenclature for this new department may be "Village Welfare Department" and the Hindi name "Gramonnati Bibhag" or such other suitable phraseology that may be coined for this purpose.

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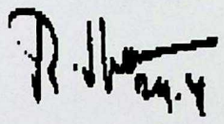
Fifthly. It was your idea when I discussed the matter on the very first day that this department is to be placed on an autonomous basis. I agree with the spirit of the suggestion. It is necessary therefore, that we should set apart an annual allotment for the fulfillment of the hope and promise that we have extended in the announcement made on behalf of His Highness. Ordinarily, it was our desire to put this allotment at 20 percent of our total income plus Sairat income but for practical purposes this is to be calculated on the average of last 3 years collections both in regard to rent and Sairat and then we may fix 20 percent of that or any percentage that may be deemed suitable as the budget allotment for this new department. After this allotment has been made we may be placed to prepare detailed budgets and take approval or sanction there on in a general manner so that the work will go on steadily, smoothly and without any interruption.

This is all for the present. I would once more request before I close that necessary orders and arrangements on each item may very kindly be kept ready so that we may start the work on the 15th with a fresh vigour and energy on a new programme not meant for show but for being actually carried out with a resolute determination.



R.Jha
Special Officer, R.D.
2. 4. 1949

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PROCEEDING OF A MEETING TO PUSH FORWARD MULTI PURPOSE VILLAGE PANCHAYAT MANAGEMENT SCHEME HELD ON THE 23RD APRIL, 1949, AT 10 A.M. IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MANAGER.

Present:

1. G. P. Danby, Esqr., Chief Manager
2. Pt. G. M. Misra, Assistant Manager
3. Babu Jagdish Jha, Development Officer
4. Babu Ramanugrah Jha, Special Officer

After a detailed discussion the following decisions were unanimously taken.

1. **OFFICE :**

It was unanimously decided that the Office for the new Department be located on the first floor of the eastern building and it was also decided that Mr. Ganguli be requested to furnish all the three rooms so as to be available for working from Monday next.

2. **STAFF :**

The Chief Manager was pleased to observe that Babu Jagadish Jha was doing settlement work and he would not therefore, be available for this new work. Among other officers it was decided that only Babu Bulakilal Mehta would be immediately available and that Babu Bindeshwari Prasad Singh might also be available on his return from leave. On the procedure for work being explained to C.M. it was decided that the ground work would be done by the Patwaries under instructions from this department and for the work of supervision we might pick up some Clerks out of a panel prepared by the Development Officer under instruction from C.M. It was also decided that Sarbani Babu might be utilized for working up of this scheme in future within his jurisdiction in addition to his own duties. About the Typist, the selection of Babu Rameshwar Prasad Sinha was approved and about Peons and Drivers, it was agreed that they would be deputed from the Head Office or appointed later after the position had clarified.

3. **CONVEYANCE**

After a review of the stock position C.M. decided to make over two Jeeps to this branch for work in the interior - one for the special Officer and the other for general purposes. He was pleased to observe that one Jeep might be available in three to four days time on return from Muzaffarpur and the other might be available in a day on two in case there was delay or difficulty about this he would put one Land Rover temporarily for

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the use of the Special Officer but not in a permanent way. About the petrol it was decided that he could carry on for some months at any rate.

4. **PUBLICITY :**

It was decided that the services of Babu R.N. Choudhury (Sukan Babu). Press Correspondent of the Indian Nation and the Aryavarta be regularly utilized for field and outdoor publicity.

5. **BUDGET ALLOTMENT :**

It was decided that 20% of the gross realizations including Sairat will be marked for grant to villagers in pursuance of the hope extended in the announcement made by His Highness.

R. Jha
Special Officer R.D.
24th April, 1949.

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Your Highness,

I have been in the service of Your Highness for three months now and I deem it my duty to submit a brief report of work done and experience gathered during the period.

At the very outset, C.M. was pleased to convey it to me that it was the intention of Your Highness to set up an effective organisation for the welfare of Kisans and labourers through village Panchayats. C.M. himself thought that it would be better to have a separate self contained department for this purpose at Darbhanga. Apart from this, I also suggested it to him to put up a small emergency office at Patna which will work as a sort of liason and publicity office, keep in touch with the currents and under currents of Government activities and counteract them as far as possible.

Subject to necessary facilities being given I assured him that I would be able to manage the work both at Patna and in the interior.

It was however, decided that Jagdish Babu would be doing the villge uplift work at Darbhanga and he was in charge of it till 23.4.49 when he was relieved of this work which I had to take over. A copy of the proceedings of a meeting together with a copy each of the suggestions that I gave from time to time for proper carrying out of this work, is enclosed for kind perusal. During the short space of about two weeks time, we have been able to pick up some good and able workers as organizers and we have taken up simultaneous working in about 50 to 60 villages. We have to maintain progress for which we are trying our utmost.

Our difficulty is of conveyance and of day to day working. I have put it up to C.M. today that it is difficult to manage with only one Jeep that we have recently got for three officers and requested him to let us have two more Jeeps for immediate working and pushing up of the work with vigour and to put this new department in possession of funds subject to raj rules and procedures, for expenses, so that constant references and occasions for delays may be avoided and the work may proceed smoothly, efficiently and in an unhampered way. From what contact I have had with the people during the short time I am at this work, I am still quite hopeful that if we show the village people real good will and serve them sincerely we shall be able to get abundance of good will in return.

About Patna work we could not proceed very far on the organizational side as envisaged in my note to your Highness in October last, for want of funds. Even so, handicapped as I was in many ways, I set my self in right earnest to work for creating a suitable atmosphere for reshuffle of Ministry so as to get obnoxious elements out of the Cabinet. I enclose a copy of preliminary report for favour of perusal. I am glad to be able to say that even in quarters where deep pessimism prevailed we have been able to work up enthusiasm. The political circles are agog with activities and they are marshalling their forces. The Secretariat, the services (high and low) and the intelligentia are all fed up with the ways of the present

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Government. I had also got into touch with Mr. Bakshi (Member Board of Revenue) the day Your Highness was at Hathwa, who promised to come to Darbhanga and meet Your Highness. I also met and discussed with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies who showed his inner sympathy for our scheme and promised all help. Other top ranking Officers both executive and judiciary, particularly most of the D.I.Gs. are getting more and more inclined to be helpful. I have had to be very careful in dealing with them. We have to encourage them in their attitude of disgust with the ways of Government without identifying ourselves with their matters.

Behind an apparent lull which is not quite unhelpful, we have been able to set in motion in right and earnest spirit, a quick and silent programme of work that is steadily going on and on in both the directions at Patna and in village and it is my considered plan to work up public opinion both rural and urban to such a high pitch and at such a time when it has been possible to bring all the forces at Patna simultaneously to the surface for the over-throw of Ministry.

There is a very good scope for work among brother land lords some of whom are evincing a very keen interest in our scheme. I feel that I can do something in this direction in the districts of Purnea, Monghyr, Gaya, Daltanganj and Ranchi. But I have to defer this work till I have organized my own villages unless some of them specially ask for our help and co-operation and we can take it up without much loss of time.

Till Misharjee has been able to examine the legal position for which I have submitted a note separately, I would also like to start negotiations for the exclusion of our estate from the operation of Management Bill and it is not unlikely that I may succeed. I would also suggest that it would be better if H.E. the Governor and the Governor General could be used to throw the bill back to the Province on legal grounds. Perhaps they will, on their own account. But we have to do our part. If we succeed in that, we may aviate the necessity of going to law courts at a huge cost and with uncertain results.

If the Governor gives his assent as Sir C.P.N. spoke to Ramgarh, in that case we may have to be in a very embarassing position for July and August as we can do nothing by way of legal action till the constitution has been passed and finalized. But that may be a hoax and even if the Governor has been worked up to give his assent, it is his responsibility and he might consider it safer to seek clarification on certain points from the Ministry or to refer to the Governor General for assent. In any case we have to work up for delay till August.

Another very important fact is to ascertain what is likely to be our surplus if we go to Civil Court and asked for this or other allied remedy. I had, in this connection raised a point even before we had any information about the Bihar Finance Act, a copy of which is placed below for favour of perusal.

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I have noticed in another file placed below that it has been Your Highness desire ever since 1930 that some real good be done to the tenants and the villagers, but some how or other, nothing much could be done in that direction and it has been my experience in the brief space of time that I have had the privilege of working under Your Highness, that it will not be possible to do anything substantial unless this department is placed on a separate self contained basis with adequate budget allotment, checked and cross-checked by detailed account rules and procedures to safe guard against remotest possibility of misuse.

In a discussion I had, with C.M. this morning, I have placed the entire position before him and have asked for all the help and guidance that he can give in a matter, about which, we are all agreed that it is urgent and important.

R. Jha
Special Officer
R.D.
9.5.49

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Office Note : 24.10.49

SUBJECT : THE SCHEME TO HAND OVER VILLAGES TO MULTI PURPOSE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES AS ALSO CANE GROWERS' SOCIETIES

Your Highness,

I beg to submit that in this connection I express what I considered to be the present position regarding this scheme a few days ago to your Highness. I am now giving my view in writing for your Highness' consideration.

What I submit below may be taken as my personal views and I do not speak on behalf of anybody else. When the scheme was proposed I was fully in favour of it as were also I believe my colleagues. At one time all, I believe, were in favour of your Highness, making the announcement, but perhaps just before the final decision was made the Assistant Manager was not fully in favour of doing so - but I believe I am right in saying that all my other colleagues were. My impression was that the announcement would give the scheme more prominence and a better start as I was surely then under the impression, as were also I believe my colleagues, that the announcement would be received by the people concerned with open arms and great joy. These impressions I of course gathered from persons I talked to, but this was the general impression by everybody.

I now know that the above impressions were wrong and generally speaking I think the people are not to any extent interested, although of course there may be exceptions. There are very definite reasons for- what I will call- our failure to get the scheme going and I give them below – but perhaps some of these "reasons" may be described as "excuses".

1. We were late in introducing the scheme and in fact we did so at the fag end when the two Bills, the one to abolish Zamindari and the other to state manage it, were either passed or about to be so.

2. The people were suspicious. Many asked why we had not introduced the scheme earlier. Others suggested that we had done so now because of the above referred to Bills with a view to try and save ourselves from being taken over.

3. I was under the impression that as soon as the announcement was made, applications would be pouring in asking for the handing over of the villages-but now I realize that such was not possible. First of all it was necessary to organize and do propaganda which for such a huge scheme required considerable time. The scheme had to be explained to the people and this meant moving round from village to village and calling meetings. This was done. As I have said it took considerable time. Them

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before we knew where we were the monsoon was on us and in fact we had rain almost continuously from April right away to September-in fact such a year of rain is perhaps not in memory. This made it very difficult for our people to move about and carry on their propaganda. In addition also there was the difficulty of conveyances and the deplorable state of communications (roads).

4. Then comes the Government opposition to the scheme circulated throughout and the refusal of the Assistant Registrar to register some 50 societies which we had formed. This Government opposition and propaganda has perhaps been the biggest opposition we have had to meet.

5. Up to about a month ago the Asst. Manager was directly in charge of the scheme, but due to his continual absence in Delhi, Patna and elsewhere, I took it over. To my thinking the agreement as originally drafted was not in order or in any case I was not ready to be a party to it without your Highness' approval, particularly on Clause 7 of the agreement. As regards other questions in the agreement I considered it was necessary to be more definite and so I wanted to clarify and make clear exactly what would be handed over to the Societies. I felt that if this was not done there would be complications later on. At the same time there were-what I would call-mistakes made regarding the execution of some agreements and so it was that I decided that agreements which had not been handed over had to be recalled for the reasons I have given above. This of course has held up progress and until the question of revising or not the agreement is decided finally, we cannot hope to go ahead.

6. Another reason of failure to make progress-is village politics which exists almost every where. There are two or more parties almost every where and they will not be brought together very easily. To make the scheme a success we have to have the co-operation of at least 50% of the principal people of the village. To get that co-operation is certainly difficult. Most or many villages have scattered tolas and to bring these tolas together is no easy matter, yet we cannot divide up the Jamabundi and so make over one Tola of collections to a Society.

7. We have instances where a President of a Society has signed the agreement and so agreed to take over the Revenue collections of he village but has subsequently withdrawn and stated his inability to take over, this is because he could not get co-operation of the village and feared he would not be able to make a success of it.

8. The Special Officer in charge of the scheme on several occasions complained that he was not getting the full co-operation of our Circle Managers. In some instances this is possible, although I feel that the Circle Managers had many difficulties and particularly at the fag end of the year when they were very busy with their collections, land settlements & c. & c. and beign pushed very hard to realize rents and complete land settlements.

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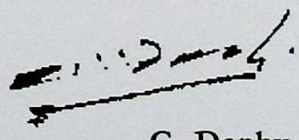
What I have said above are perhaps some of the reasons of failure or as I have suggested "excuses". But here again the staff which we employed on the scheme with the exception of course of the Special Officer, I do not think we have fully satisfied the Special Officer. It was really necessary to have a very special staff to deal with a scheme of this magnitude embracing many complications. Unlimited energy and tact was required. Now what is the position. We are more or less at a stand still, but perhaps it will be possible to do some thing now, towards success. Circles have closed their books and will be free and be able to give more time during the coming months to the formation of Societies and the handing over to the Societies already formed. One thing is quite sure that without the full co-operation of Circle Managers we cannot make successful headway. They are in touch with the tenants and know them.

The present expenditure on the staff engaged is over Rs.2000/- a month. The exact figures I have not got with me at the moment. I personally feel that this staff should be liquidated and we carry on the scheme through our Circle Managers direct from the Head Office. The money now being spent is I think wasted but in saying this I am not blaming any member of the staff or for that matter any body else. Fate has been against us but at the same time I for one will admit that I misjudged or perhaps did not realize the many implications connected with this colossal scheme, otherwise I would not have given my approval.

As I have already said these are my personal views and I speak for no body else. I am against giving up the scheme altogether as your Highness made the announcement, but I do think we would be more successful if we do it through our Circle Managers and perhaps with the help of one of our Officers who would work directly under the Head Office.

Submitted



G. Danby
Chief Manager, R.D.
October 24, 1949.

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COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL VENTURES

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"The Maharaja of Darbhanga possess substantial shares in the British India Corporation and Octavius Steel & Co."

"The Maharaja of Darbhanga holds big interests in the British India Corporation and Octavius Steel & Co. Villiers & Co. is fully under Indian control."

The New International, March-April 1951, Ashoka Mehta, *Who Controls India's Economy? A Continuing Pattern of Concentration of Wealth*

From New International, Vol.17 No.2, March-April 1951, pp.110-120. Transcribed by Ted Crawford.

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COMPANIES PROMOTED BY RAJ DARBHANGA

1. **NEWSPAPER & PUBLICATIONS PVT. LTD.**
   Used to publish two newspapers from Patna, Bihar. During its hey days, these two newspapers almost had monopoly in Bihar. The company is not publishing any newspapers or magazines now.

   a. **The Indian Nation**
      English daily newspaper

   b. **Aryavarta**
      Hindi daily newspaper.

   c. **Mithila Mihir**
      a periodical in Maithili language.

   d. **The Dove**
      a monthly magazine in English.

2. **Walford**
   Dealership of Automobiles. It had its showrooms at Kolkata, Guwahati and Imphal.

3. **Darbhanga Aviations**
   Raj Darbhanga had five Douglas DC-3 aircraft (2 No.s of C-47A-DL and 1 No. of C-47A-DK) and ran an airline - Darbhanga Aviations from 1950 to 1962. These airplanes were purchased from U.S. Air force. One of these planes (Registration - VT-DEM) got destroyed in an accident near Calcutta on 01-03-1954. This plane was on Scheduled Domestic Service out of Calcutta, India, when it crashed on takeoff from Calcutta. The No.1 engine of the DC-3 caught fire immediately after takeoff from Calcutta runway 19R. The aircraft failed to gain height, stalled and crashed into trees, 3330 feet past the runway end. 2 of the 8 passengers, and all 3 crew members aboard the DC3 were killed in the crash. The 6 surviving passengers were all critically injured. Although the engine fire was the primary cause of the crash, the Pilot was also cited for a delay in feathering the engine, and the extreme nose up altitude of the plane during takeoff. Both of those factors contributed to the downing of the plane.

   Second aeroplane bearing registration No. VT-AYG crashed on 24 MAY 1962 near Rajshahi in Bangladesh. The cause of crash has been attributed to fatigue failure of the no. 1 engine forcing the crew of the DC-3 to continue on a single engine (no. 2). After a while the remaining engine lost power due to overheating resulting in crash of the aircraft.

   Third aircraft (registration No. VT-DEM) was taken over by Indian Airforce.

   Raj Darbhanga also maintained two airstrips at Darbhanga and Madhubani. The airstrip at Darbhanga is now under control of Indian Air force, while the airstrip at Madhubani is under control of Ministry of Civil Aviations.

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4. **Ashok Paper Mills"**
   Started to manufacture newsprints. It was later taken over by Government of Bihar. It is now lying closed.

5. **Sakri Sugar Factory**
   It was nationalized and taken over by Government of Bihar.

6. **Pandaul Sugar Factory**
   It was nationalized and taken over by Government of Bihar.

7. **Rameshwar Jute Mills, Baliaghat (Calcutta)**
   Located in the outskirts of Calcutta were sold to the Birlas in 1960

8. **Rameshwar Jute Mills, Muktapur near Samastipur, Bihar.**

9. **British India Corporation**
   A large business house with several mills and factories in Kanpur and other parts of north India. The controlling stake was held by the Maharaja of Darbhanga

10. **Octavius Steel**
    Another large Calcutta based managing agency with interests in engineering, tea, sugar etc. The Maharaja of Darbhanga had a large financial stake in this company too.

11. **Villiers Ltd.**
    A company dealing in shares.

12. **Darbhanga Engineering Works Pvt. Ltd.**
    Manufacturing unit for maleable steel.

13. **Thackers Spink & Co. (1933) Ltd.**
    Manufacturer of Stationery and books

14. **Thackers Press and D Ltd.**

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Cawnpore
5-2-30

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Kameshwar,

Before recording for your information certain important particulars regarding the Patna paper - I want finally to disabuse your mind of an apprehension which, so H.E.thinks, still exists. That statement of Rs.36 lakhs that I showed you some time ago only refers to the amount that would in all be required, in order to control a great proportion of India's newspapers. I merely put it to you that if you aspired to be the most powerful man in British India - a total investment, by gradual stages, of that amount would be required. You did not approve the idea - so there's an end to that - But you have, I gather, since approved of the modified scheme by which with an initial investment at Allahabad and India, we can commence.

Every far-seeing man sees clearly to be necessary - that is a means of propaganda on behalf of your interests, which are bound up with those of the British Raj. When, later, I shall so arrange matters as to relieve you of part of your newspaper holdings, I shall then again put forward the revivability of again reinvesting in other papers, the funds paid back to you.

I am sure you will agree that what you (primarily by reasons of the size of your possessions) and others with interests of a similar kind have to remember, is that the views of one individual paper from one province can never have anything like the same influence as the views of concerted newspapers in different parts of India. That is the essence of my scheme. That is why it is to my mind so essential .... get full value from your newspaper investments - there should be very "pucca" arrangements to work in concert, as between the several newspapers. That is why I have proposed all along to be the actively connecting Advisory link, as a Director, between the different papers themselves, between them and the Chief Proprietors; That is why it is essential for you to agree to having a trustworthy and sound Editor on the Patna paper, enjoying the same discretions (once the policy of the paper has been given him) as on all Papers except those that are known to be so prejudiced and narrow that they lose their value as a guide in the shaping of public opinion.

Lastly, I am sending you herewith the estimate I promised you, for the Patna paper - Please note one or two things :- (1) The figures as given have been checked by two of our experts at Allahabad, and is based on actual Incomes and costings.

(2) I am not of course allowing for the same quality of staff, Editorial and managerial as on Pioneer, that may come later. For instance the Pioneer pays it's Editor Rs.1750/-

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to 2000/- pm; while the Patna paper will pay Rs.1000/- the Pioneer manager gets Rs.1500/- while the Patna paper manager will get Rs.850/- and so on.

(3) From the Business point of view the value of working the Patna and other papers as separate units, on their separate funds - but in one general co-operating organization, lies in the certainty of getting more advertisements; buying machinery paper and stores together and so more cheaply; "syndicating" news to each other. I mention this because you should not take the figure on the 2nd page of my Patna paper as well as being the ultimate figure; we must and will, in time exceed this if the Paper is to be a complete success.

* "required advertisement revenue".

Reports from Patna indicate that the job press printing work will give a better figure than we anticipate.

Let me close this long note with one warning. Let us start the paper as quickly as possible, in order to benefit by its full affect at this crucial time. (It will take a lot of hard work to get it going). And in the interests of the paper let us keep the proposal as dark or vague as possible - so that no competitor, such as the Statesman, may hamper us.

Directly you place these funds at the Allahabad Bank, a receipt will be given by the Bank; but the private company should not be formed officially ...to prevent outsiders from leaning of the move. On the Bank advising me that the funds are with them, I can at once set things in motion. And I propose to send you a monthly report, and a monthly statement of expenditure - so that you can compare it from time to time with the figures handed to you herewith.

Yours' very sincerely

Charles Allen.

Charles Allen

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SUMMARY OF RECURRING (MONTHLY) EXPENDITURE.

Editorial establishment	2,650.00
Business establishment	1,965.00
Miscellaneous office establishment	185.00
Printing establishment	1,811.00
Materials	6,846.80
Working charges	10,274.00
Total Rs.	**23,731.80 x 12**
	= 2,84,778.00 p

CAPITAL (INITIAL) EXPENDITURE.

Machinery (for printing paper)	50,000.00
„ (for the job Press)	50,000.00
Stocks (for the news press)	28,799.00
„ (for the job Press)	30,000.00
Cost if a motor van (second - hand)	1,500.00
Cost of 6 bicyles for peons	270.00
Office furniture and reference books, and safe.	2,950.00
Press furniture.	700.00
Contingencies (including security deposits with the post office, telegraph office etc.)	5,000.00
Initiation expenses : setting up machinery, fitting up office and Press buildings, collection first advertisers and arranging Agents and circulation and correspondents, in India and England	13,000.00
Total Rs.	**2,02,019.00**

Recurring (monthly) expenditure Rs.	23,631.80 x 12
Initial capital expenditure	= 2,84,778.00
	2,02,019.00
	4,86,797.00

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In order that annual income may balance annual expenditure, the following revenue would be required :-

By sale of 3,000 copies @-/1/- per copy per day x 26 days x months per annum	58,500.00
Less, Agents' Commission @ 25%on 1500 copies x 26 x 12	7,312.00
	51,188.00

By advertisements, calcutated as follows :-

Display and contract acvertisements in 12 pages paper, 3000 copies daily, 26 days per month, at 40% advs. to 60% reading matter. Calcutated at an average rate of Rs. 1/4/- per inch col., omitting one page per day of casuals, calculated at one anna per word.

per annum	1,00,000.00
By Job Printing - per annum	1,35,00.00
	Rs.2,86,188.00

From scrutiny of circulation figures in Patna, and by adding estimated circulation in Districts where there is considerable advantage in time over other papers - it is considered that there should not be much difficulty in very soon obtaining a 3000 copy circulation.

Only Rs. 8,350/- per month is required from advertisements in from England, America and India - which when compared with other papers returns printed in India's capitals, is not large figure.

Job printing, if say Rs. 12,000/- per month should easily be obtained, according to investigations that have been made.

It should be noted however that although every endeavour will be made to collect advertisments by means of "dummy" copy prior to the first issue immediate revenue in adequate quantity cannot be ensured for some month. For this reason working capital for one year must be arranged before the paper is started.

Charles Allen.

C.T.Allen
February 1930

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REGISTERED

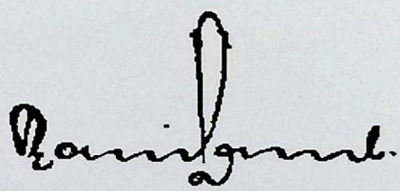
Allahabad Bank Limited
Affiliated to the P. & O. Banking Corporation. Ltd.
Calcutta, 23rd April, 1930
No. Adv. 430

His Highness The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraj
Kameshwar Singh,
The Palace,
Darbhanga

Dear Sir,

with reference to the previous correspondence we send you herewith our safe custody receipt No. 437 of date in respect of 7936 shares of the Pioneer and Civil & Military Gazette Limited held on your account.

Your faithfully



General Manager

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9, PARK LANE
CALCUTTA

The 3rd Novemver, 1943

Your Highness,

As desired I am enclosing herewith the statements of profits of companies under my supervision.

H. H. The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Darbhanga **(Signatured Scanned)**

STATEMENT SHOWING PROFITS OF THACKERS SPINK & CO. (1933) LTD.

Year.	Rs.	Profit
1934.	-	11,935.06
1935	-	7,403,13.11
1936	-	10,822,0.10
1937	-	1,816.00
1938	-	11,664.53
1939	-	1,991.34
1940	-	13,904,13.6
1941	-	18,651.54
1942	-	57,904.05
1943	-	over 1 lac estimated

STATEMENT SHOWING PROFIT & LOSS OF THACKERS PRESS & D. LTD.

Year.	Profit.	Loss	Debit Balance
1934			1,56,638-3-1
1935	9,176-10-7		
1936	3,413-4-5		
1937	35,658-14-3		
1938	23,724-0-9		
1939	6,300-11-2		
1940	21,560-6-2		
1941	23,352-11-1		
1942	Nil	6,429-6-5	39,880-15-1

There was a profit of about Rs. 48.000/- but this was wiped out by the provision made for depreciation of copyright payment of Income for 1942-43 to 1943-44 also E.P.T

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STATEMENT SHOWENG PROFITS OF VILLIERS LIMITED

Year	Profit	Dividend	Reserve
1937	1,19,391-14-10	30,000/- @10/-per share	50,000/-
1938	81,861-15-3	30,000/- @ 10/- per Share	35,000/-
1939	67,008-12-9	40,500/- @13/8/- per share	25,000/-
1940	73,616-5-0	45,000/- @ 15/- per share	10,000/-
1941	78,485-6-1	47,250/- @ 15/12/- per share	500/-
1942.	80,261-5-9	48000 @ 16/- per share	5000/-

There was no profit previous to 1937.

STATEMENT SHOWING PROFIT & LOSS OF WALFORD TRANSPORT LTD.

Year ended	Profit	Loss.	Dividend.
31.3.34.	39,224-3-8		
31.3.35	44,002-0-5		
31.3.36	47,762-0-10		
31.3.37	50,616-2-1		@$2^1/_2$ $^1/_2$
31.3.38	13,334-9-1		@ 28% (Int. Divn)
31.3.39	++++++++++	4,303-0-4	
31.3.40	53,348-13-3		@ $7^1/_2$ % on P. Ordy @ 5% on Ordy.
31.12.40	45,461-2-6		@ 8% on P. Ordy. @ 6% on ordy.
31.12.41	1,05,422-8-11		@ 10% on P. Ordy @ 10% on Ondy.
31.12.42	1,44,234-9-8		@ 15% on P. Ordy. @ 20% On Ordy.

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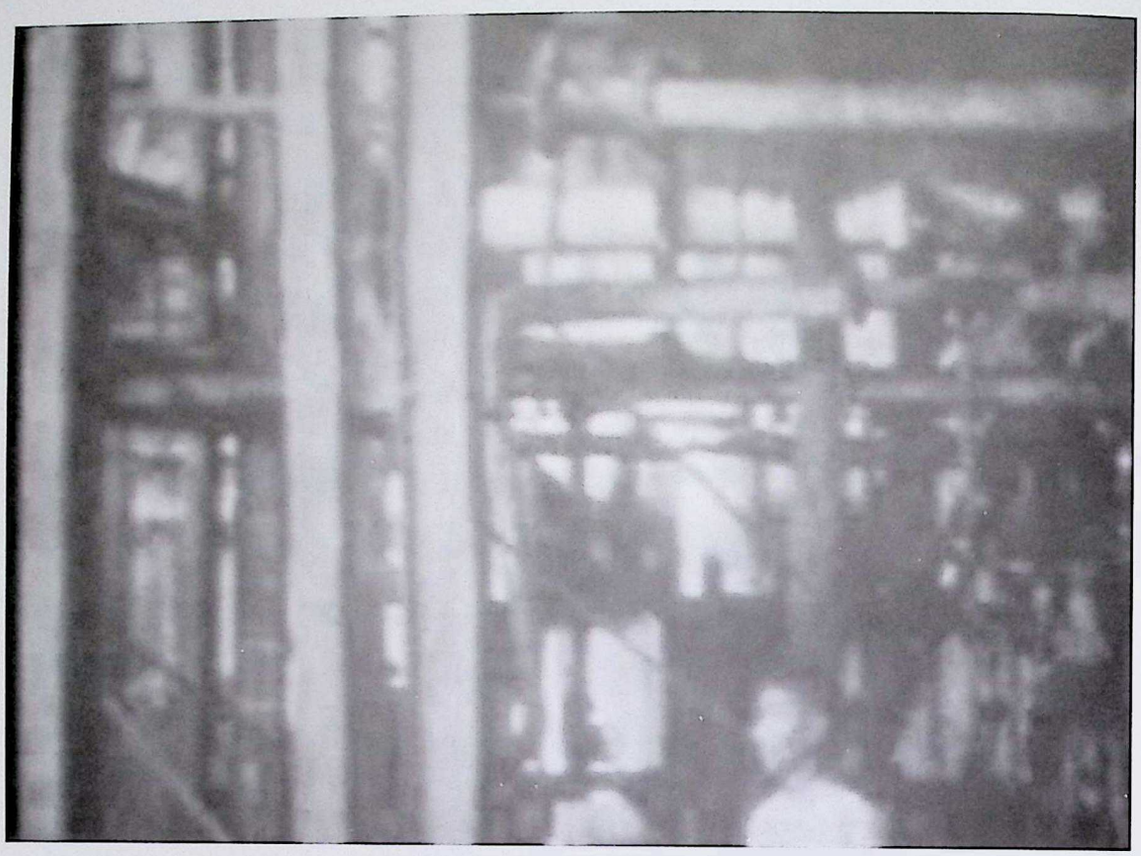
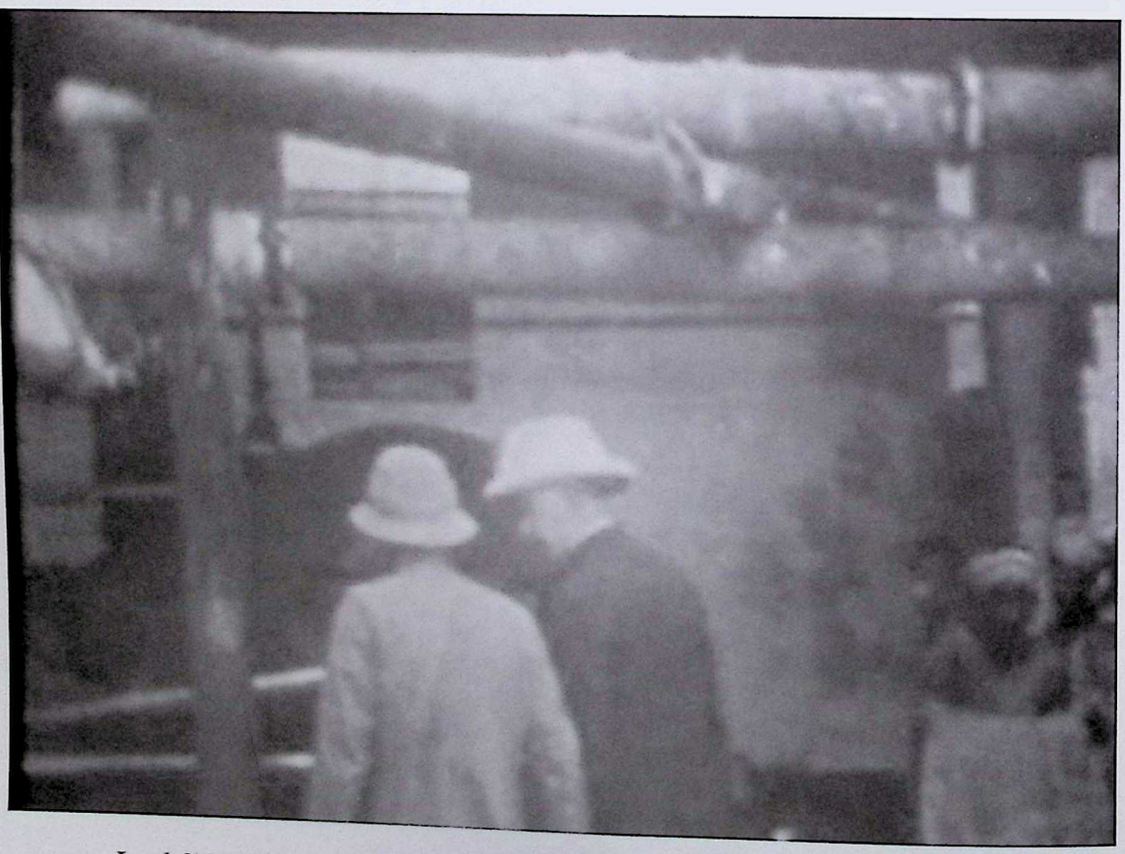


Sugar Mill at Lohat, Darbhanga, 1932



Lord Sifton, Governor of Bihar, visits Sugar Mill at Lohat, Darbhanga, 1932

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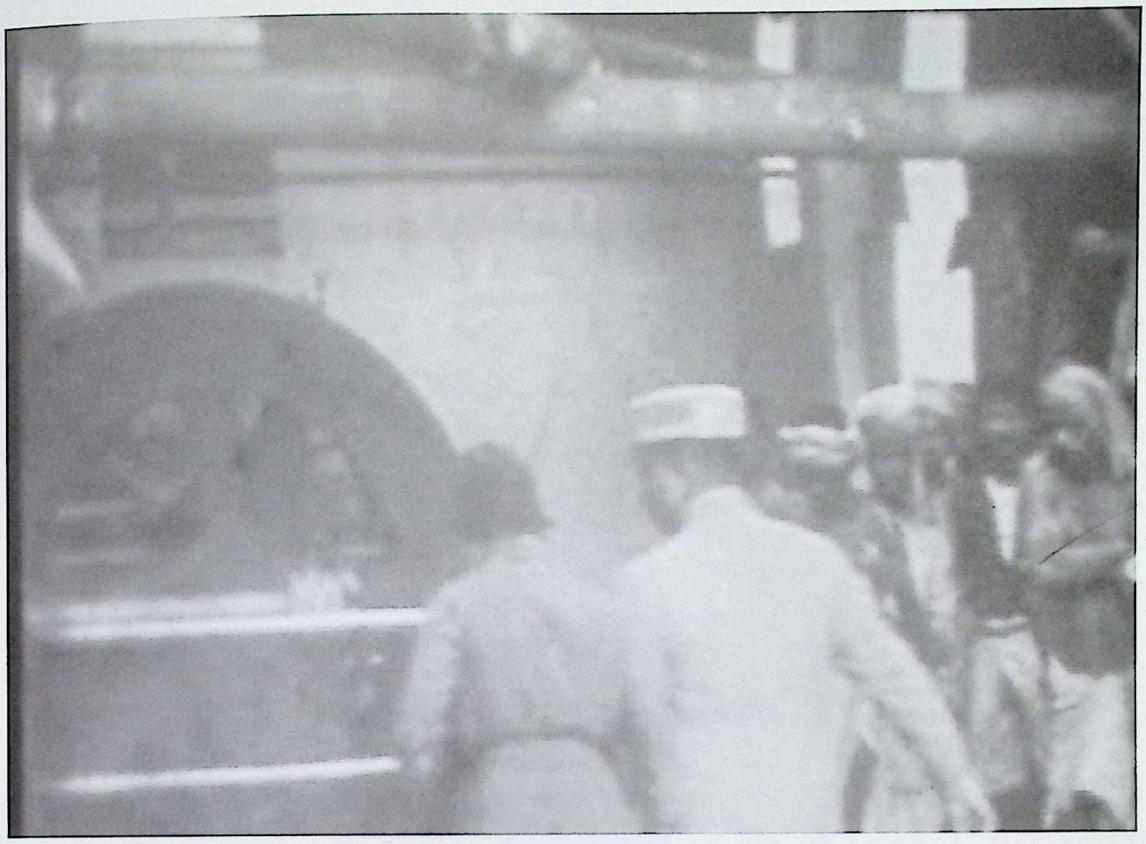
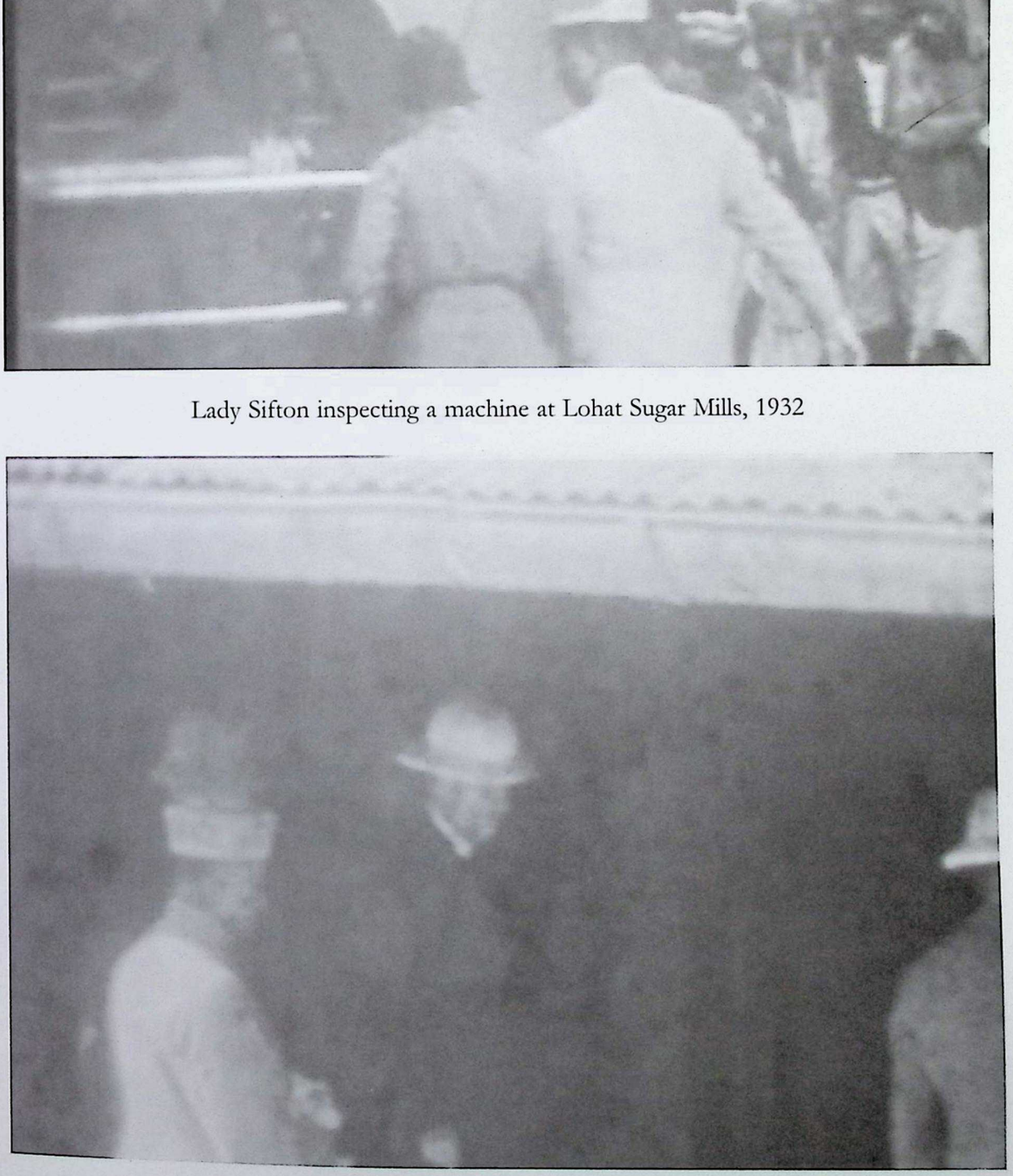


Lady Sifton inspecting a machine at Lohat Sugar Mills, 1932



Lord Sifton, Governor of Bihar, in the campus of sugar mill at Lohat.

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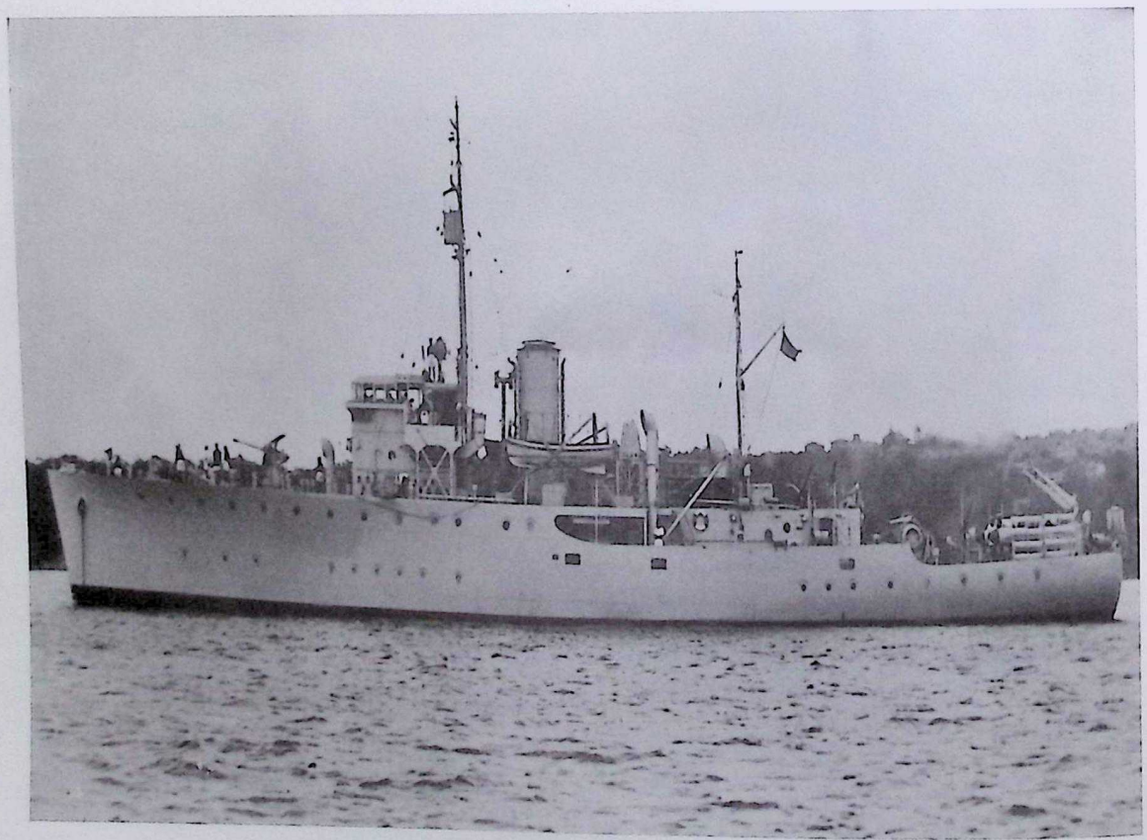
Lord Sifton, Governor of Bihar, 1932



Ship belonging to Scindhia Shipping Company in which the Maharajadhiraja had invested

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"AFTAB VILLA"
14/1, Burdwan Road,
Alipore,
Culcutta

30th October, 1944

My dear Friend

This is with reference to your letter of the 12th Decemeber, 1943 which the Raja Saheb of Parikud brought to me regarding the running of his Chilka Lake Fishery on commercial lines and I am enclosing herewith a copy of the same for your ready reference. Since then I had several conferences with the Raja Sahab, the last of which was yesterday. I introduced my Deputy Manager, who has not only got some experience in this line but is well conversant with all matters relating to Orissa, to the Raja Saheb and they are jointly drawing up a scheme before we can approach any commercial concern for taking up the Managing Agency.

In the meantime what I would like to have from you is your suggestion as to the firms which you think might be worth approaching for taking up the Managing Agency for such a project, because being in the practical commercial line you know much as to who would be the best people for such purposes, moreover, as you will be investing a big capital if the project materializes your suggestion in the matter is absolutely essential.

With all good wishes,

Yours affectionately,

Sd/-
U.C. Mahtab

The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwar Singh, K.C.I.E.,
of Darbhanga
The Palace, Darbhanga

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ASHOK PAPER MILLS LTD.

1, Gupta Lane, Calcutta - 6

June 4, 1959

My Dear Mishraji,

I am enclosing herewith a copy of an outline of the Ashok Paper Mills Ltd. wherein highlights of the scheme are explained in some detail. I would particularly like to draw your attention to paras 10 and 11. The notes on the "Production Cost and Earning Potential" and "Depreciation and Development Rebate" attached herewith are also worthy of your careful study.

2. While the production cost estimate is prepared liberally leaving some margin, the estimate of selling price is fairly on the conservative side. It is therefore fair to expect a margin of profit better than Rs. 500/- per ton of paper i.e. Rs. 75 lacs per year.

3. Under the present policy of the Government of India we shall be entitled to large sums of development rebates and depriciation allowances on plant and machinery and buildings and hence income-tax liability for the first year of production shall be nil and not so heavy for the subsequent few years as will be seen from the note attached.

4. From the cash amounts available not only that the liabilities for payment of installments of interest and deferred payment would be easily fulfilled but there shall be surplus cash on hand.

5. In the Capital Structure (Para 11) Rs. 150 Lakhs are shown against shares held by promoters. It is desired to distribute the shares as under :-

Shree Baidyanath Ayurved Bhawan Pvt. Ltd., and their associates	Rs.	30 Lakhs
Mr. Polack of Empacel	Rs.	20 lakhs
H.H. Maharajadhiraj Darbhanga as Promoter	Rs.	50 lakhs
Underwriting by I.C.I.C. of India	Rs.	50 lakhs
Total	**Rs.**	**150 lakhs**

6. Negotiations have been going on with I.C.I.C. of India for the underwriting. It is my suggestion that the underwriting by the I.C.I.C. of I. may be arranged in co-operation with the investment Company of Darbhanga Raj, If His Highness is agreeable. I have no doubts about the success of the under writing with such co-operation. Should Mahrajadhiraj find such arrangement not suitable, whatever number of shares remain unsold may, if necessary, be purchased by the investment company of the Raj.

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7. It is estimated that about one crore rupees will be required during the first year of the project to meet the cost of land, construction of buildings, machine shop and other equipment to be purchased locally, etc. Another Rs. one crore shall be required in the second year to meet expenses of customs duties, transportation and erection of machineries, and purchases of raw materials and stores, etc. I have therefore to request you to consider making available Rs. 5 lacs per month from the next August as your contribution to the Share Capital.

I hope the above details would meet with your approval. Should you require any other information, I shall be very happy to furnish you with same.

With respects and sincere regards.

Industrial Credit And
Investment Corporation of India
Very Sincerely Yours,

(B.L. Sharma)

Sri Girindra Mohan Mishra,
Adviser to H.H. Maharajadhiraj Darbhanga,
Raj Darbhanga,
Darbhanga (Bihar)

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ASHOK PAPER MILLS LIMITED.

ESTIMATED PRODUCTION COST & EARNING POTENTIAL

Production Cost per ton of paper is calculated to be as under :-

Sabai grass, bagasse and Bamboo	Rs. 166	
Chemical	Rs. 97	
Lime, China Clay & Other Material	Rs. 61	
Electricity, Steam & Fuel Oil	Rs. 142	
Labour and Supervision	Rs. 137	
Engineering & Maintenance Stores	Rs. 68	
Financial & Insurance Charges	Rs. 80	
Management, Administration & establishment expenses	Rs. 33	Rs. 784
Depreciation Charges		Rs. 266
Total		Rs. 1,050
Selling Price per ton : Less Commission & Other Selling expenses		Rs. 1,550
Margin of Profit per ton of Paper		Rs. 500

The total annual earning potential is based on production of 15,000 tons of paper of different qualities and grades every year. The estimated earnings are as follows :-

Net Receipts :

15,000 tons of paper @ Rs. 1,550 per ton	Rs. 2,32,50,000.00
Less : Production Cost @ Rs. 1,050 per ton	Rs. 1,57,50,000.00
Net Earnings before taxes	Rs. 75,00,000.00

CLG : 5.6.59

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ASHOK PAPER MILLS LIMITED

DEVELOPMENT REBATE AND DEPRECIATION UNDER INDIAN I.T. ACT.

Plant & Machinery	Rs. 3,75,00,000	Buildings	Rs. 50,00,000

Year	Development Preveil (Rs.)	Depreciation (Double Shift) (Rs.)	Depreciation (Rs.)	Grand Total (Rs.)
1st	93,75,000	50,62,500	2,50,000	1,46,87,500
2nd	-	43,79,000	2,37,500	46,16,560
3rd	-	37,87,884	2,25,625	40,13,509
4th	-	32,76,520	2,14,343	34,90,863
5th	-	28,34,196	2,03,626	30,37,822
	93,75,000	1,93,40,160	11,31,094	2,98,46,254

CLG : 5.6.59

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BY REGISTERED AIR MAIL

Darbhanga Engineering Works (Private) Ltd.
Chairman's camp office :
Himalayan Lodge, St. Mary's Hill,
Kurseong, West Bengal,

25th October, 1959

My Dear Chandreswar,

After a serious attack of Thrombosis, I was advised by Doctors to retire from the post of Agent of Tata Iron & Steel Co. and take up some other lighter work. I am therefore, in keeping with my old promise, trying to help our friend the Maharjadhiraja of Darbhanga to consolidate and expand his industrial ventures.

We have a scheme to expand the Darbhanga Engineering Works, of which I am the Chairman and Maharaj Kumar Jeeveshwar Singh is the Managing Director. We propose to put up an up-to-date malleable iron foundary using electric furnaces, with a view to produce malleable iron castings of superior grades which have a large and expanding market in India and are mostly imported into this country at present. It is proposed to put up the factory in Jamshedpur area, as recommended by Sir Jehangir Ghandi in his report on the Techno-Economic Survey of Bihar, so that we may readily obtain the pig iron and scraps that we require from TISCO and also supply TELCO and Tube mill with the large quantity of malleable castings, which they are importing at present. If the scheme succeeds we should be able to capture a large part of the Indian market for the superior grades of malleable castings that are at present imported.

As this industry will be new of its kind in India we feel that it would be desirable to obtain the technical and financial collaboration of Hitachi Ltd. of Japan, who are one of the leading manufacturer of malleable castings and are more up-to-date than British manufacturers in this line. As this Company and their associates the Nissho Company of Japan have been working for TISCO in connection with their expansion programme, we sought the assistance of Sir Jehangir Ghandi, Director-in-charge of TISCO. At his instance Mr. Kutar, technical Director of TISCO, personally introduced the Maharaj Kumar of Darbhanga and Mr. Lakhotia, one of our Directors, to Mr. Kuroda of Nissho Co. in Calcutta. Mr. Kuroda was given all necessary particulars and he promised to take up the matter with Hitachis through his Chairman Mr. Takahata. At my instance, Sir Jehangir Ghandi has also written a personal letter to Mr. Haraguchi, Director-in-charge of overseas office of Hitachi Ltd., strongly recommending technical and financial collaboration by that Company with Darbhanga Engineering Works in its important venture.

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I do not have to tell you of the very high financial standing and repute of the Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga, and you know very well my experience in the industrial field in planning inter alia the Sindri factory and the Damodar Valley Corporation as the Development Commissioner of Bihar and later in handling the intricate industrial and administrative problems as the Agent of TISCO for more than ten years, including the planning of the Ferro-manganese industry in Joda. The Maharajadhiraja, myself and the Directors of Darbhanga Engineering Works will be very grateful if, in view of your personal knowledge and contact, you are good enough to introduce us to Hitachis and use your good office to induce them to take up this joint venture in Partnership with Darbhanga Engineering Works under the reputable House of Darbhanga Raj.

In this connection, I may bring to your notice that from a recent advertisement which appeared in the statesman I find that Hitachi Ltd. have actually entered into technical collaboration with Orient Steel & Wire Industries (Private) Ltd. in putting up a factory in Faridabad (Punjab) for the manufacture of varnish cloth, tapes, and sleevings of ORIENT-HITACHI brand conforming to international standards maintained by Hitachis in their factory in Japan. This shows that Hitachis would be interested in entering into a Joint venture with a reputable concern in India, as recommended by Sir Jehangir Ghandi in his letter to Mr. Haraguchi of Hitachi Ltd.

Expecting the favour of an early reply, and kindest regards,

Yours sincerely

Sd. S. M. Dhar.

S.M. Dhar

His Excellency Sir Chandreswar Prasad Narayan Singh,
Ambassador for India,
Indian Embassy, Tokyo, Japan

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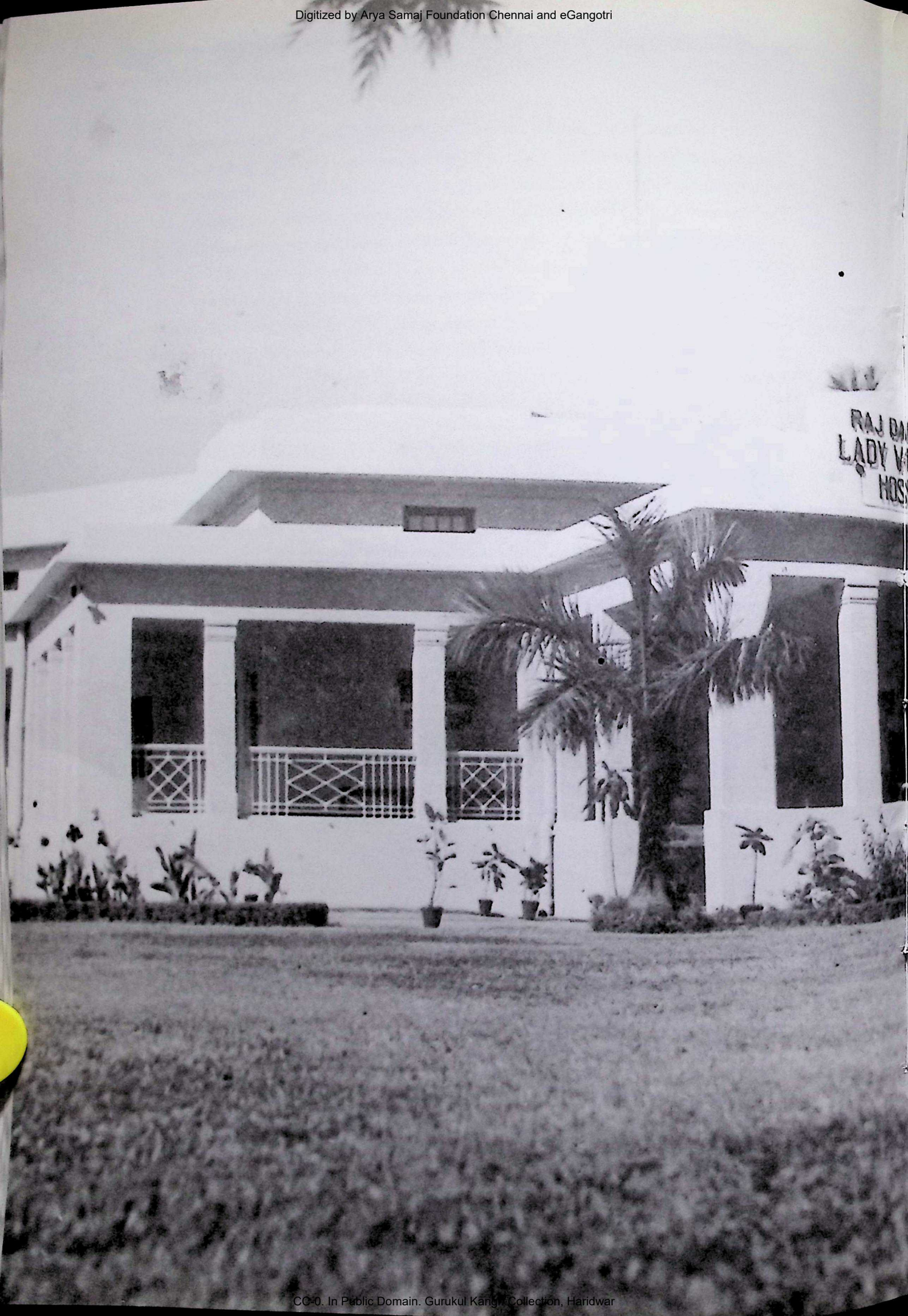

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PHILANTHROPY

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"Be a servant to your subjects. And spend no more than you need from the State exchequer, considering yourself a trustee of the entire property."

... Mahatma Gandhi

MESSAGE TO MAHARAJA OF DARBHANGA

April 17, 1947

I remember that in October 1950 when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru visited Patna, he called all the big landlords of the state including Maharajadhiraj and appealed to them to give up their zamindari. The Maharajadhiraj promised to do so and since then he never made any attempts to save his zamindari by going either to the High Court or the Supreme Court. In fact the Maharajadhiraj forshook his zamindari as a beautiful bird casts off its feather. I met him after his zamindari had been taken over and still he was so good and friendly to me.

...K.B.Sahay,
1962
Minister for Planning and Cooperation, Bihar

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D.O. No. F. 97-W/42

The Viceroy's House, New Delhi
20th November, 1942

My dear Maharaja Saheb,

With reference to the recent correspondence about the Darbhanga House, Cairo, you may be interested to see the enclosed report on the working of this House sent in May last by the Secretary in the Middle East, British Y.W.C.A.War Service.

Yours sincerely,

T.L.Crosthwait

The Hon'ble
Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwar Singh, KCIE,
of Darbhanga.

EXTRACT FROM REPORT FOR MAY 1942
BY MISS JEAN BEGG,
SECRETARY IN MIDDLE EAST, BRITISH Y.W.C.A. WAR SERVICE

Cairo, DARBHANGA HOUSE

This Services Club is centrally situated and the girls are appreciating the quietness and comfort which only a house of this size could give to such large numbers. The charm of the house lies in the unexpected spaciousness and beauty of architectural detail - the enormous central hall is ideal for dances, musical programmes etc., while the coolness of the dinning room on the ground level is most inviting after the heat and glare of a summer day in Cairo. Bedrooms are huge and will accommodate, when necessary, up to four girls. As always we would prefer to have smaller single rooms, but it has not been possible to find premises which are ideal in every respect. We have installed extra bathrooms and dressing rooms in order to provide a maximum of comfort.

As the Club is very near Kaar-el-Nil Barracks it is often possible for the girls to secure transport to and from their units outside Cairo. It is fun to see the drivers taking such interest in their charges and many a cup of tea goes to these men who are such staunch friends of ours.

The Club is being constantly used by women of all ranks accompanied by their men friends, also of all ranks. They all enjoy their freedom, which we are most careful to preserve, the daintiness of the simple but well - cooked meals, the tea dances and other entertainments. Dinner dances are to start immediately and Murial Wilson has made provision for service of cool drinks on the terrace.

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STAFF

Mrs. Baillie Grohman, Hostess :
She is living at home but comes in regularly every day from 8.30 to 1.30 and 5p.m. to 8.30 She also comes in for extra parties, such as tea dances.

Muriel Wilson (New Zealand) :
Has taken over the food services and is coping with this side of the work splendidly, though she hopes in time to have a chance to pioneer a new club.

Betty Thorpe (New Zealand and Australia) :
Has taken over the Programme end of this Club.

Mrs. Dunbar
(wife of an ex-official in the Sudan who is now attached to the Sudanese Office here in Cairo) :
Comes from 9 to 5 daily and has taken over a number of Mrs.Taffs' activities, such as the Book Shop and the Mission Needlework Sales, our Chapel Services and also shares the programme work with Betty Thorpe.

Dorothy Cavanagh (Australia)
Who is attached to Headquarters Staff assists in the evening, and lives in the house.
Two W.W.S.A. New Zealand (V.A.D. Section) are detailed for duty in our food service division. They do three month's duty at a stretch and then others replace them.
There is also a roster of voluntary workers for Information Desk Work.
As well as the above foreign staff, there is a native working housekeeper and staff of servants.

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The Viceroy's House
New Delhi
3rd May, 1943.

Dear Maharajadhiraja Sahib,

I think that a little while ago I wrote to you saying that my request would be the last you would be likely to receive from me, but I am now forced to make another on behalf of Darbhanga House in Cairo, I heard from the Organising Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., Miss Begg, saying how much Darbhanga House is appreciated and is being largely used by thousands of girls who, to use her own words "bless you for such a haven of rest and enjoyment". The money which they receive from the girls does not make the rent and she says that you have made a generous gift of £ 1000. She wonders whether it would be possible for you to make this an annual donation and asks me to use my influence with you. I need only say that if you can see your way to make this gift you will be contributing a very great deal to the women who are doing such marvellous work and without whom the British Army could get on. You will know that a great amount of work they have taken over from the men and how they even go up to the war areas.

I need not assure you of His Excellency and my appreciation for anything that you feel able to do.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
Deren Linlithgow.

The Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga, K.C.I.E.

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The Viceroy's House
New Delhi

1st July, 1943.

Dear Maharajadhiraja Sahib,

Your generous consent in reply to my letter to provide sufficient money for the upkeep of Darbhanga House in Cairo was received by me in the middle of Bhutan where I was on tour. I sent your suggestion offering to invest Rs.4,45,000/- in Defence Bonds to the Viceroy which he has accepted and is most grateful for this further proof of your desire to do anything in your power to help those who are involved in the war. I can not tell you that pleasure this will give to the Organisers of the Y.W.C.A. apart from the pleasure which it gives me.

His Excellency thinks the best arrangement will be that the funds should be entrusted for safe custody to the New Delhi Branch of the Imperial Bank of India with an authority in its favour to recover the interest accuring on them half yearly as it falls due and credit it to H.E.The Viceroy's War Purpose Fund under intimation to the Joint Honorary Treasurers. On receipt of the Bank's credit advice the Treasurers would issue a formal receipt in your name and remit the amount of interest to the Y.W.C.A., Cairo as your recurring half-yearly donation for the maintenance of Darbhanga House. The Bonds themselves would ofcourse remain in your name and the interest would be paid until the end of the war or until Darbhanga House closes down. I will be grateful if you approve of this arrangement and if you would deposit the Bonds as soon as possible with the Bank.

I thought you would like to have these photographs of Darbhanga House which I have just received from the Y.W.C.A., Cairo.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
Deren Linlithgow.

The Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga, K.C.I.E.

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P.O. Srinagar
Purnea
24.5.43

Your Highness,

I am herewith submitting the letter that I have received from **Swami Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi** who had devoted the best part of his life to the service of Indians in Africa. It has been very much appreciated. He is a Bihari. The recent anti-Indian legislation in South Africa has put a severe strain on him and he solicits financial help from Your Highness to enable him to agitate against the injustice done to the Indian Settlers in South Africa.

He says in his letter that 30 years ago (i.e. in 1913) when he had started his public life in South Africa he had requested His late Highness to bless him and Late Highness did not only bless him but sent him a remittance by Bank Draft to carry on the work. He hopes that the request for financial assistance will receive favourable and sympathetic consideration from your Highness. If your Highness so dires he will keep the matter of Your Highness's donation a secret.

With best regards,
Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
G. Sinha

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CUTTACK
The 3rd January, 1944

D.O No. 330 (4) L.S.G.

Dear Maharajadhiraja,

May I take the liberty of writing to you on a matter of particular need of my people in Orissa and appeal to the generosity of Your Highness, which always meets with a ready response. Since I took over as Prime Minister in Orissa I have been applying my mind to certain basic needs of my people and have gone forward with my colleagues in expanding education among women, in enlarging educational concessions and lately in establishing a University for the Province. The next venture is to have a Medical College in Orissa and for this purpose I am glad I have been able to persuade my Government to meet some of the initial and required recurring costs which will doubtless be heavy in establishing a college with the limited resources of my province. We would like to have some special departments and equipments which will need a sound financial backing in the shape of an adequate Endowment Fund. I enclose a statement of the objects for which such fund is required. It is for this fund that I have ventured to appeal to the generosity of Your Highness whom I know as one who has the proud heritage of helping any noble cause in India. If any special grant is made by Your Highness for any particular purpose, it will be my duty to enshrine Your Highness's name in connection with the proposed institution which will be very popular and unique in my province. Any contribution made for the proposed endowment will be gratefully acknowledged.

Yours sincerely,

To
Maharajadhiraj Sir Kameshwar Singh, K.C.I.E.,
Darbhanga.

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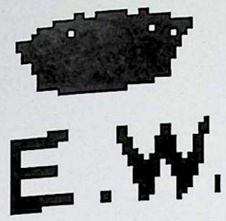

The Viceroy's House
New Delhi

4th March 1944

Dear Maharaja Saheb,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 12th of February which I have not been able to answer before as I have been away on tour. His Excellency and I are most grateful to you for offering your house at 42 Chowringhee, Calcutta, rent free. I understand that arrangements will be made for Government to pay the charges you have mentioned.

I have been all over the Club - it is a beautiful building and much appreciated by the girls of the services who have the privilege of using it.

Yours Sincerely

Eugenie Wavell

Copy submitted to
His Highness for information in continuation of my letter dated 24.02.1944

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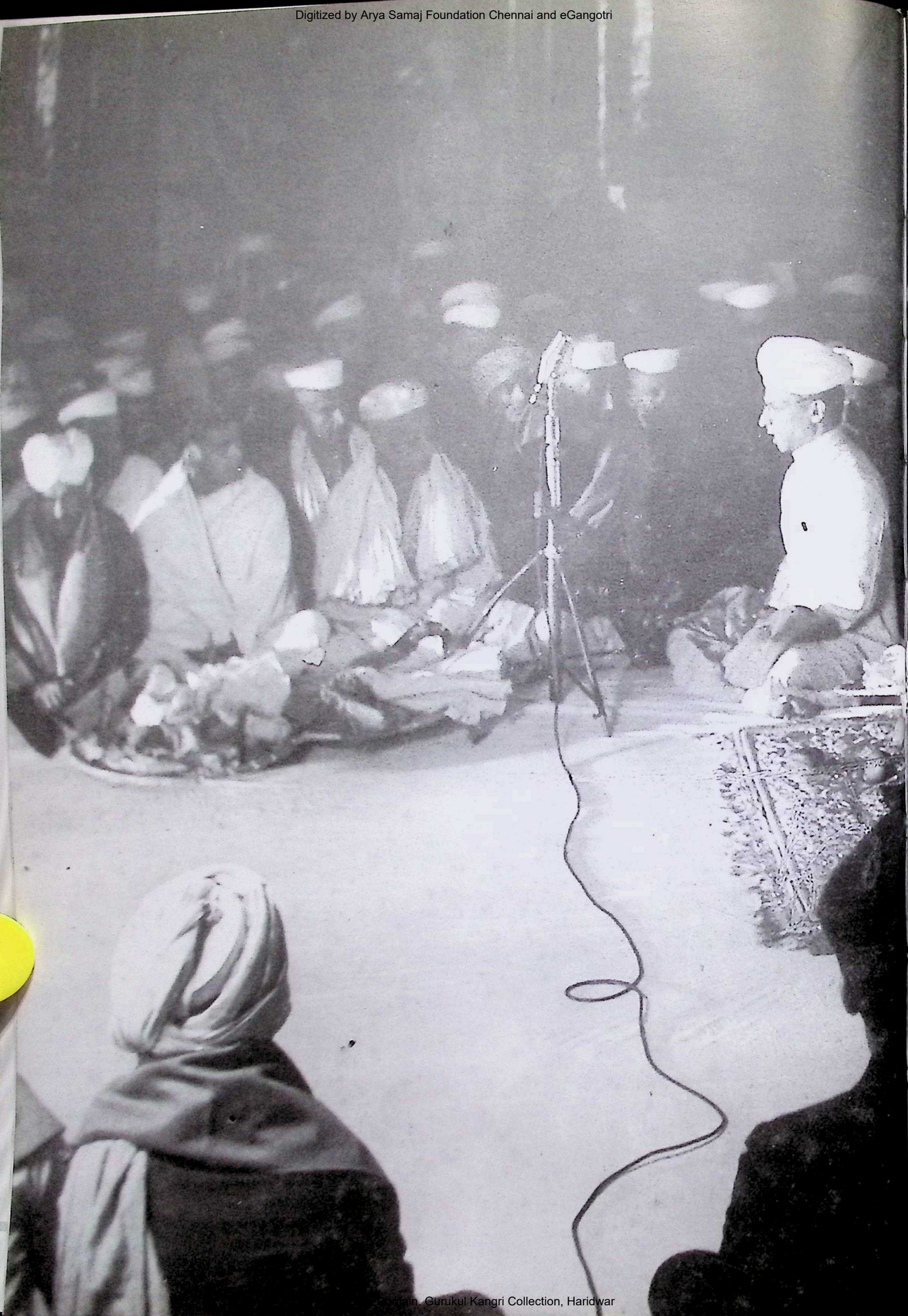

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Maharajadhiraja along with Dr. Radhakrishnan and Sir Ganganatha Jha
in the 'Dhout Pariksha' organised in 1942 at Darbhanga

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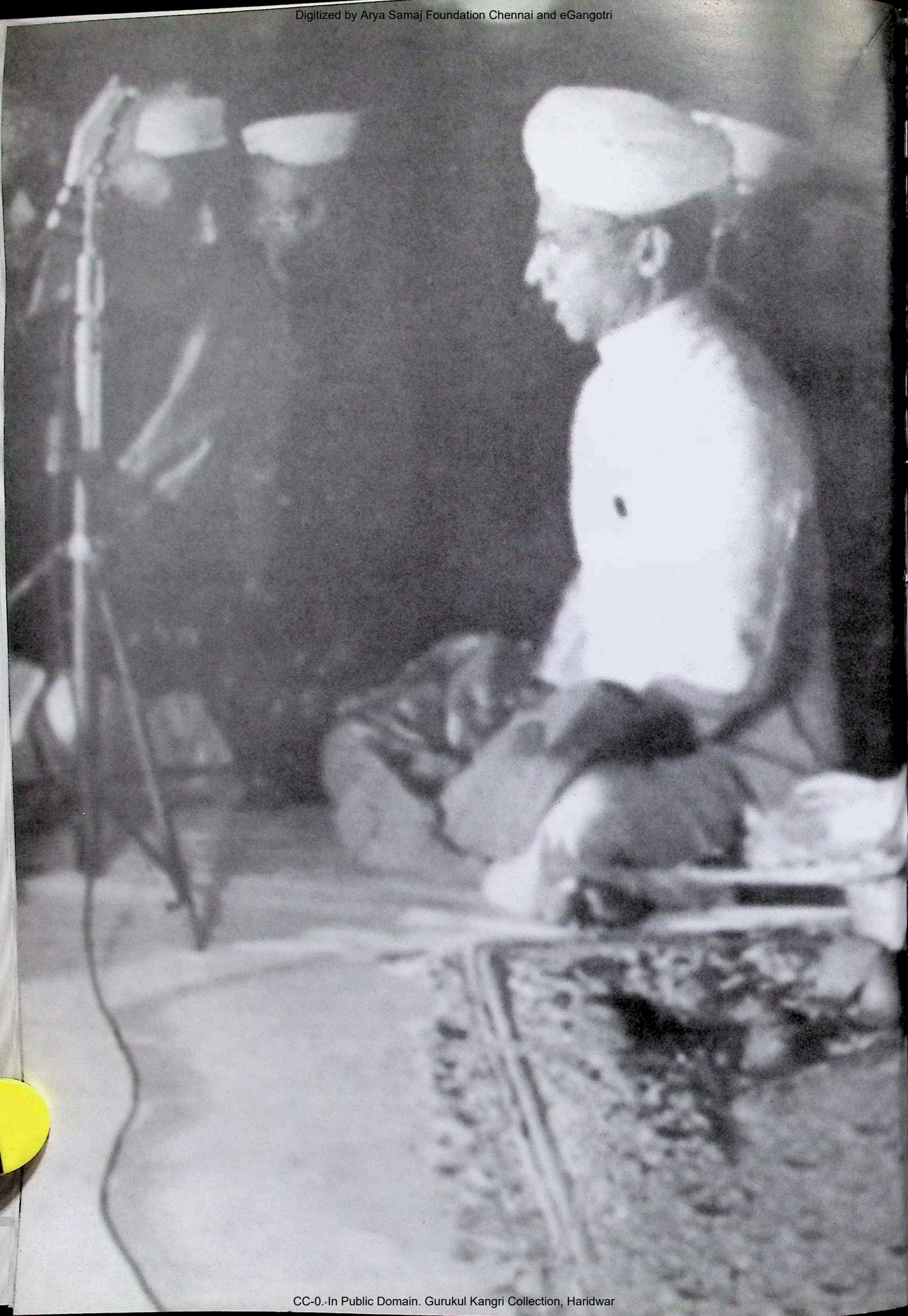

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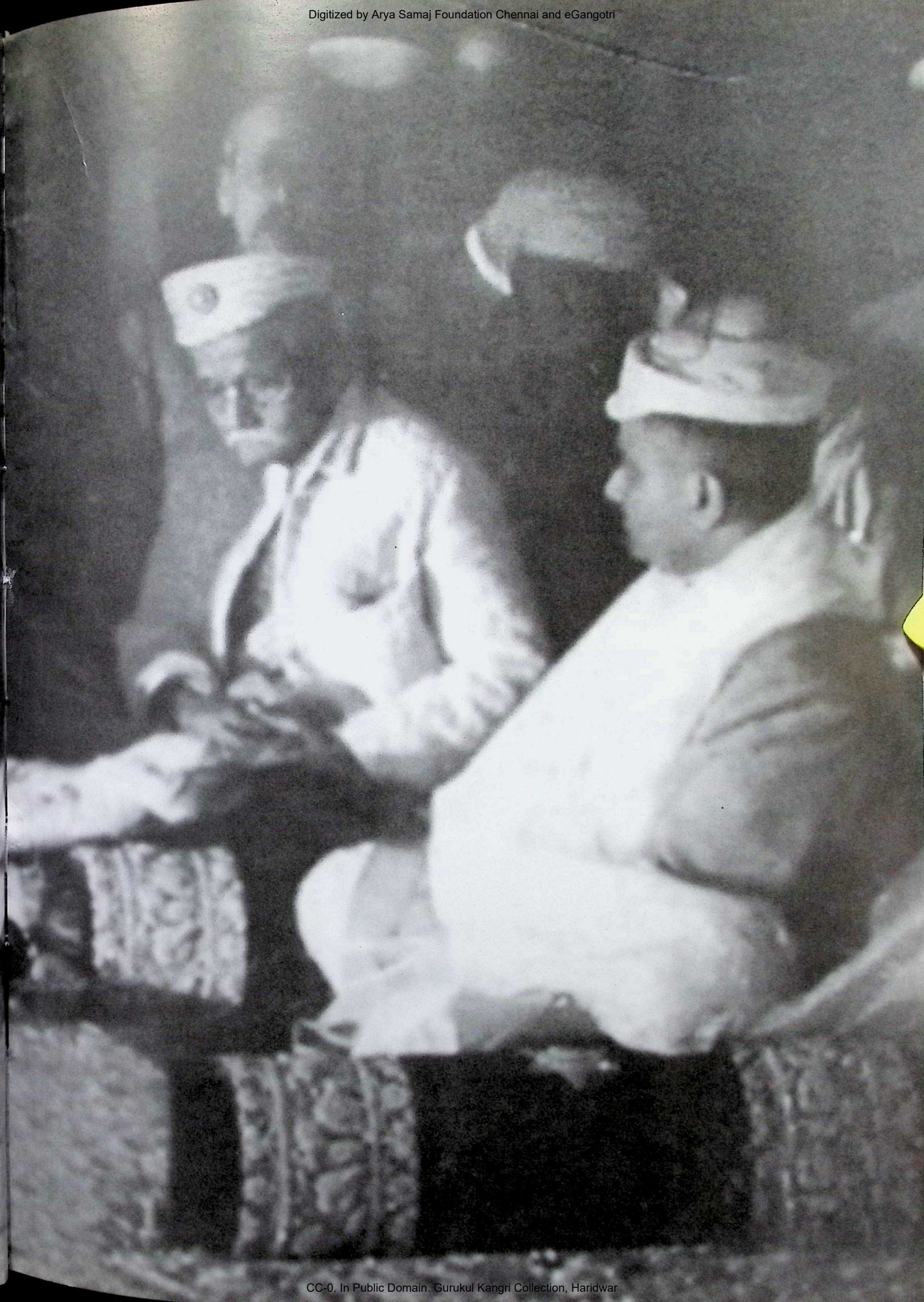

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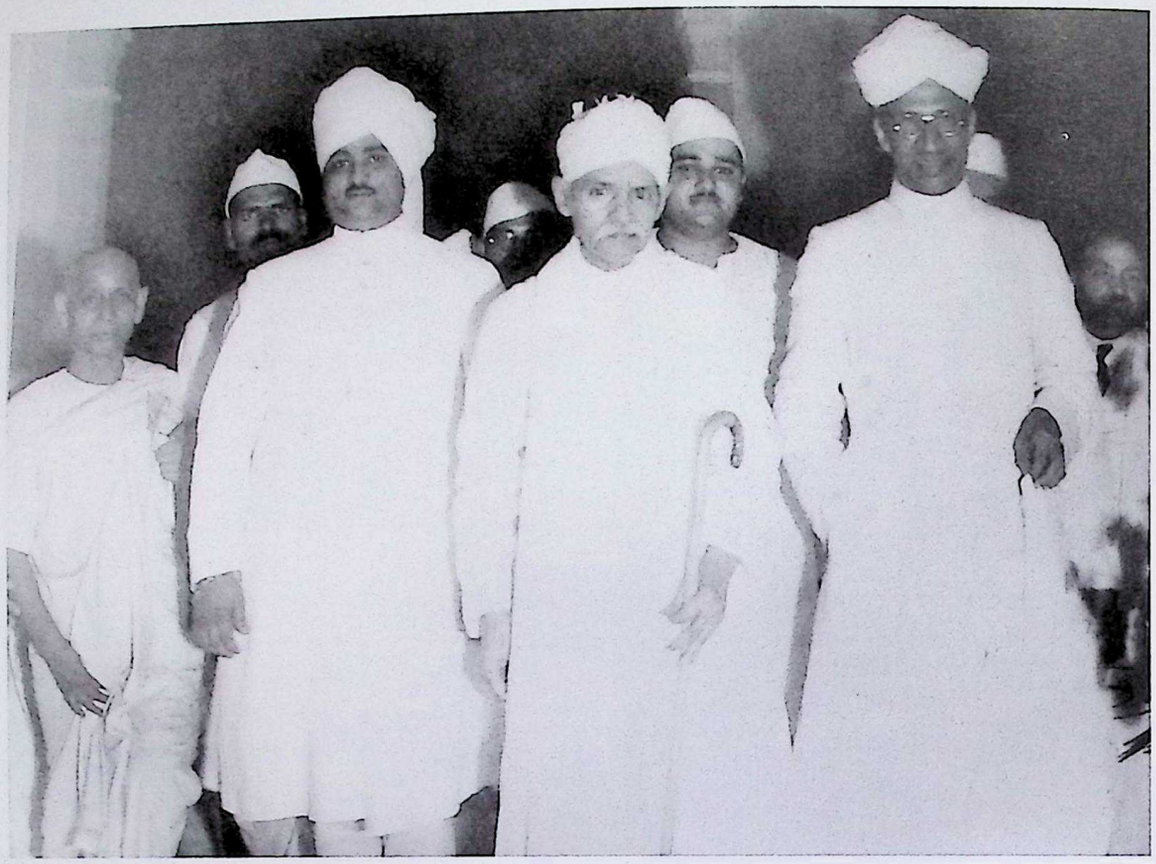

Maharajadhiraja with Pandit M.M.Malviyaji and Dr. Radhakrishnan

Maharajadhiraja with Pandit M.M.Malviyaji and Dr. Radhakrishnan at B.H.U.

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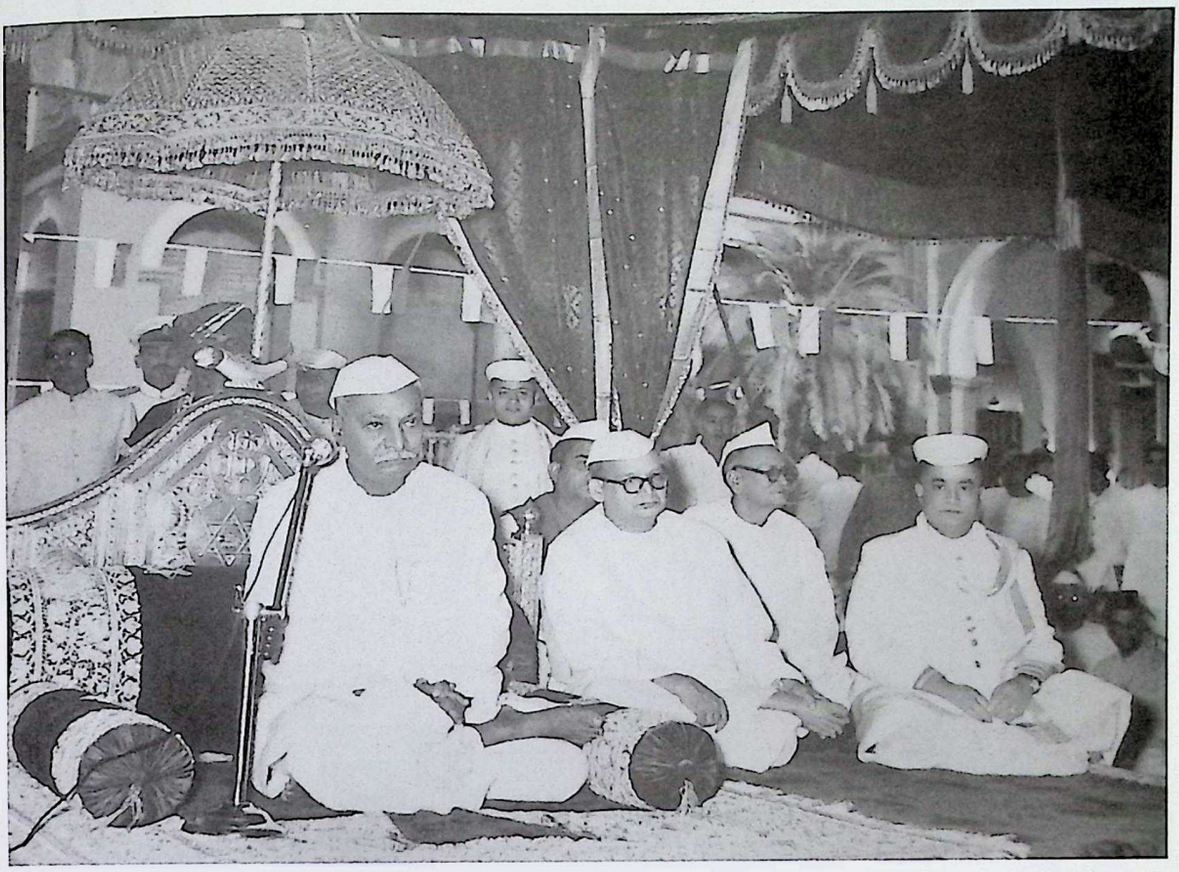

Maharajadhiraja with Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Sri Krishna Sinha, Darbhanga, 1960

Banquet at Darbhanga House Delhi

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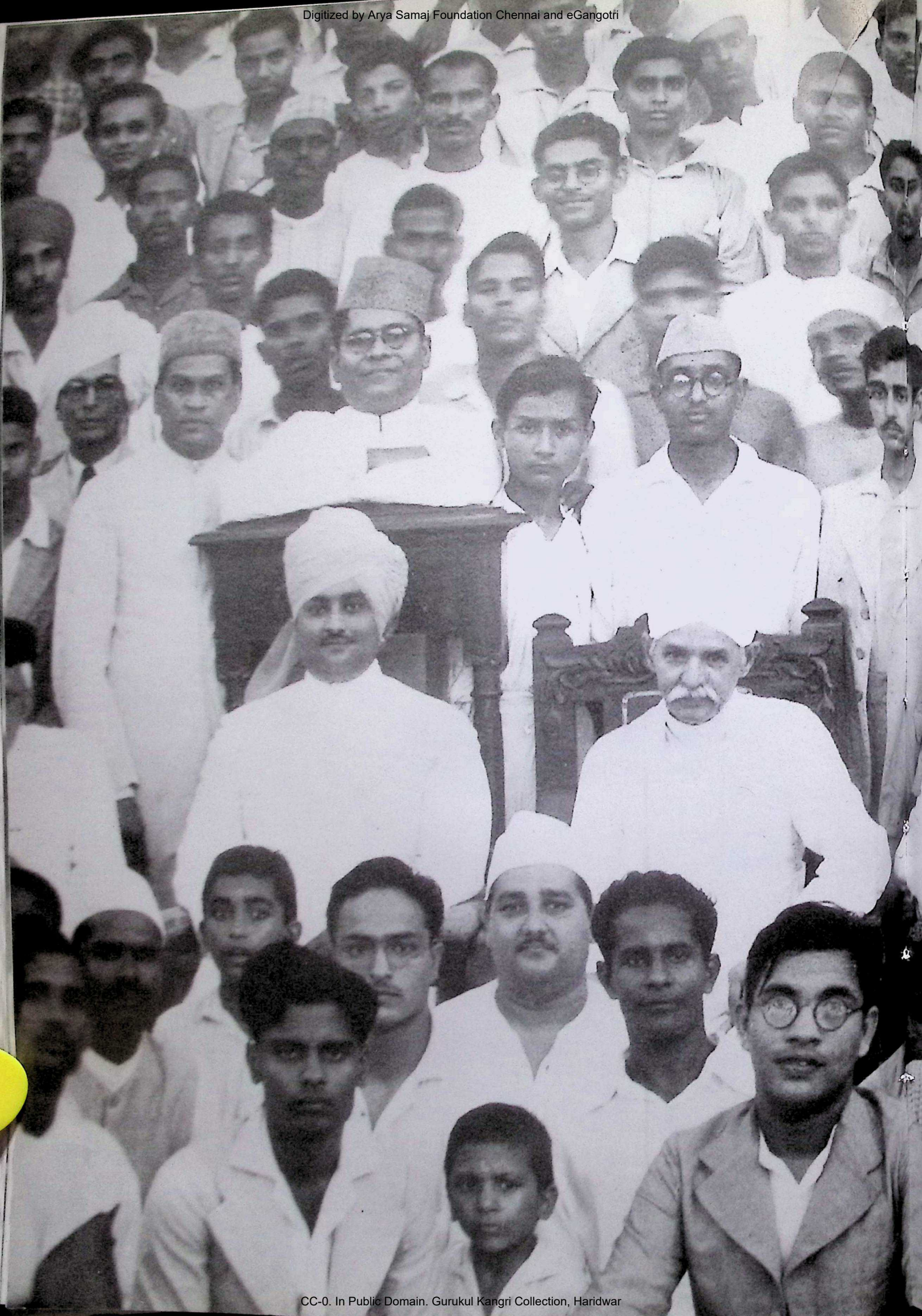

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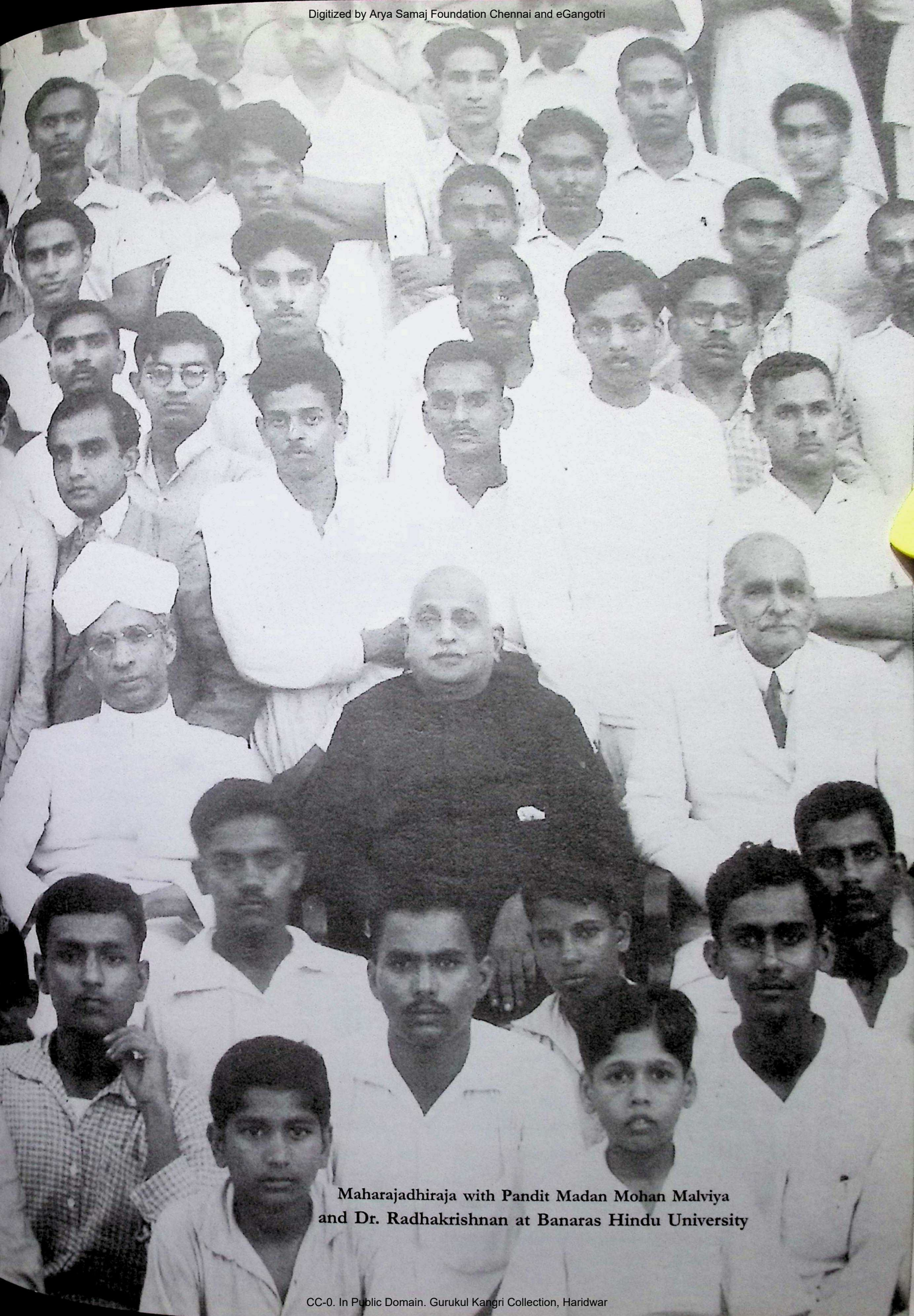

Maharajadhiraja with Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya
and Dr. Radhakrishnan at Banaras Hindu University

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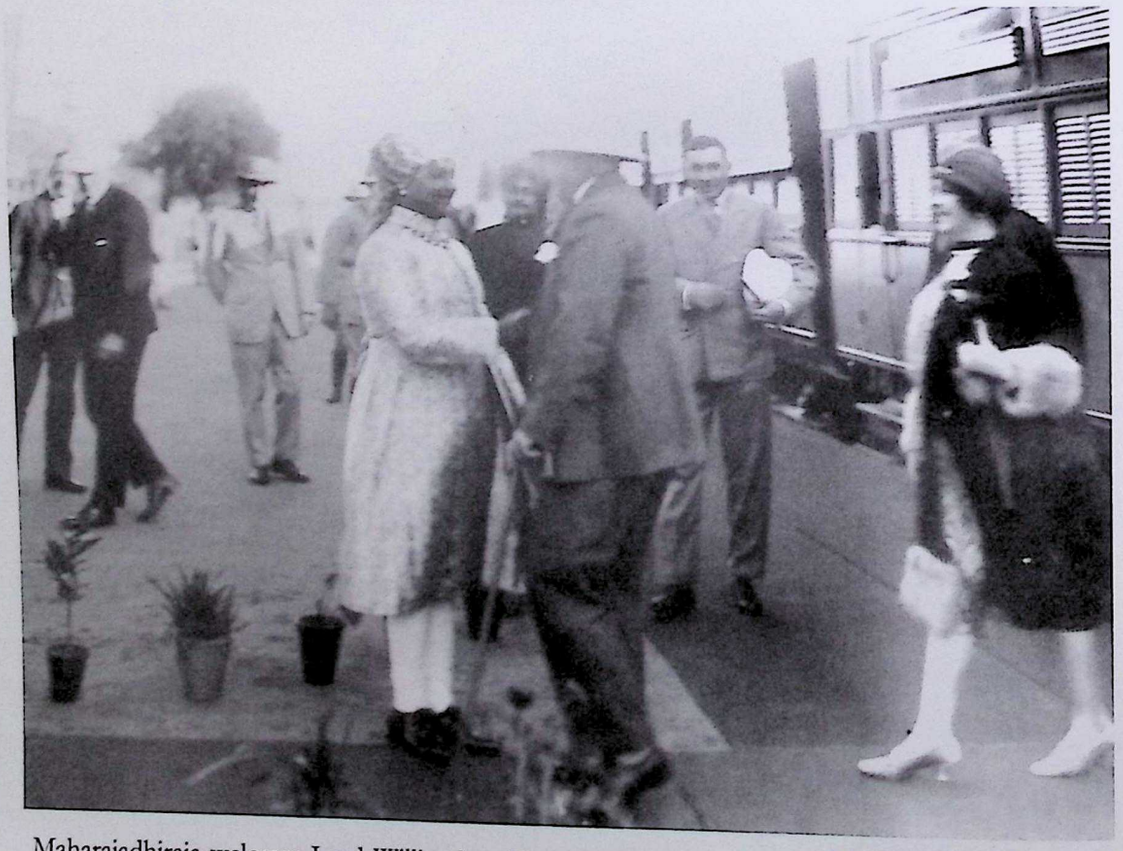
Maharajadhiraja escorting the Governor



Maharajadhiraja welcmes Lord Willingdon, Viceroy of India, Darbhanga Railway Station, 1935

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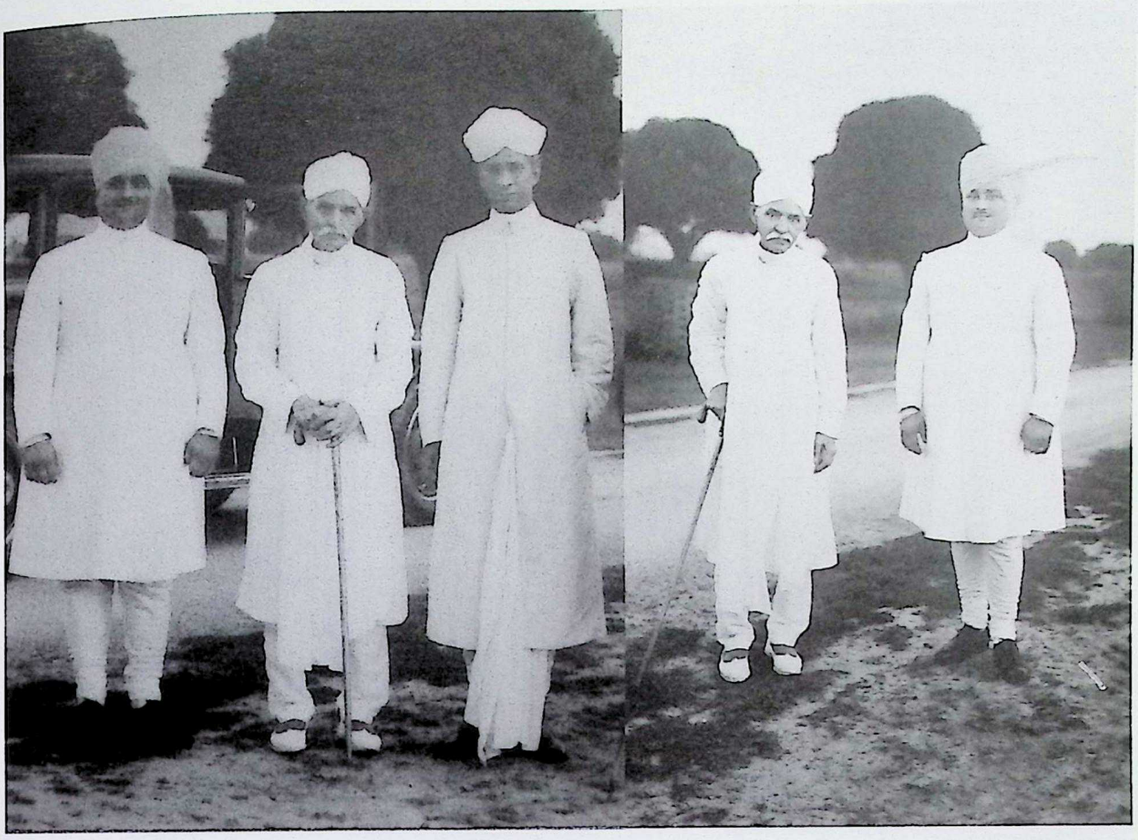
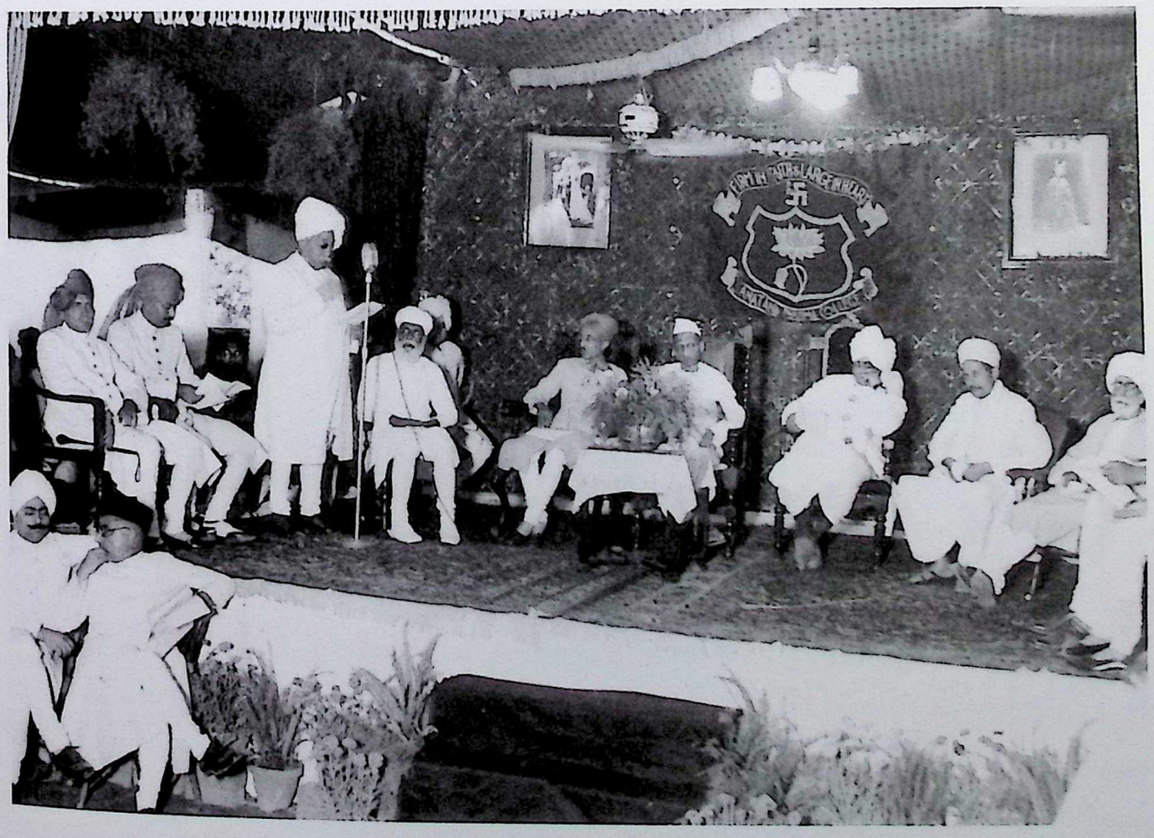


Maharajadhiraja with Pandit M.M.Malviyaji and Dr. Radhakrishnan



Maharajadhiraja with the guests at a function
organised by Dharma Samaj Sanskrit College, Muzaffarpur

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Welcoming a distinguished guest

Maharajadhiraja Tribhuvan planting a sapling in the Nargaona Palace Campus

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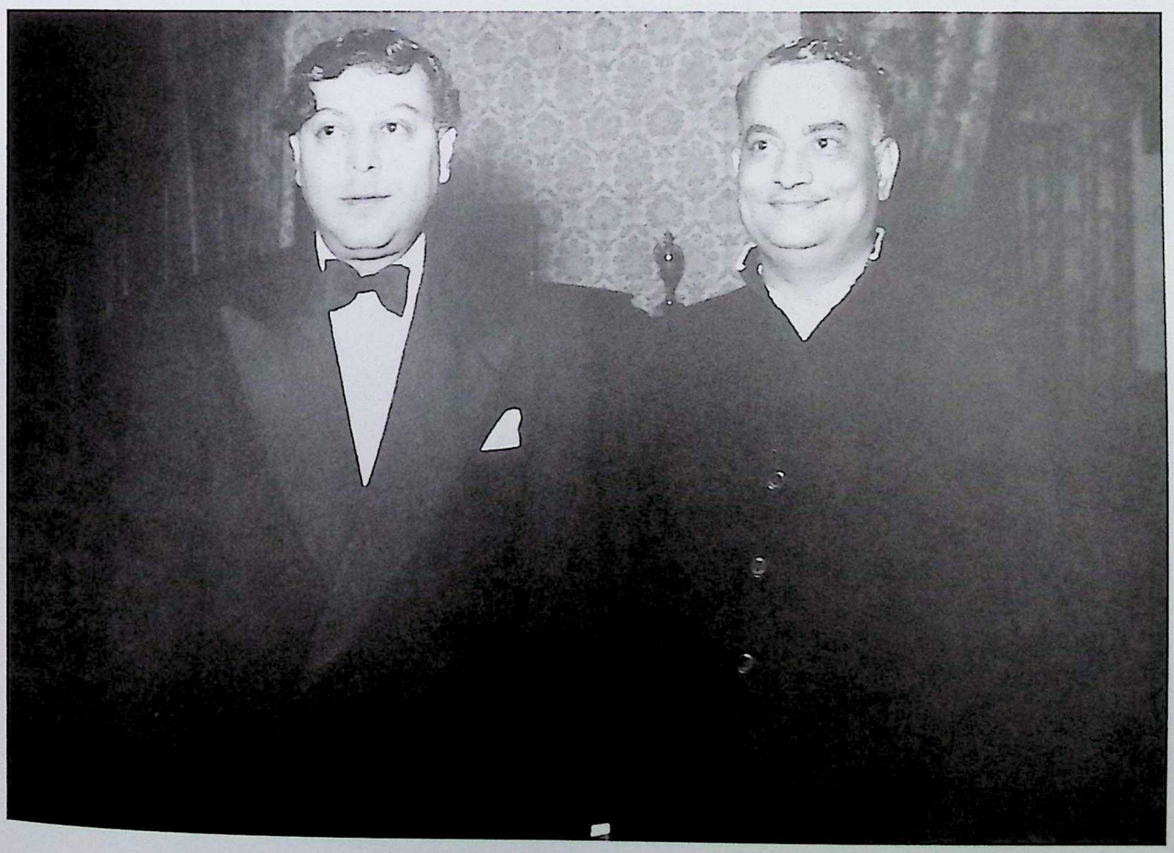
Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh with Maharajadhiraja Tribhuvan of Nepal



Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh with Maharajadhiraja Tribhuvan of Nepal

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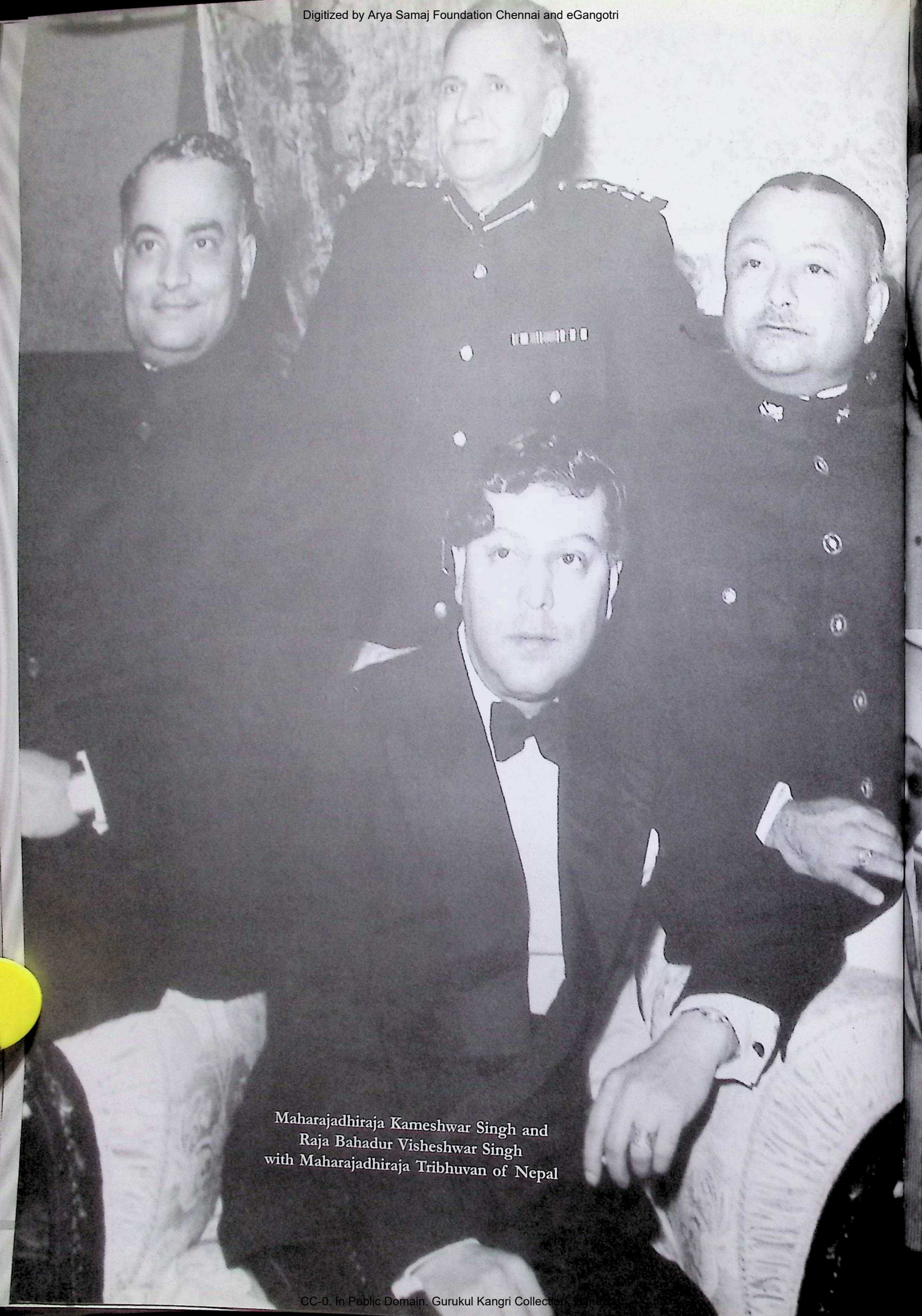

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh and
Raja Bahadur Visheshwar Singh
with Maharajadhiraja Tribhuvan of Nepal

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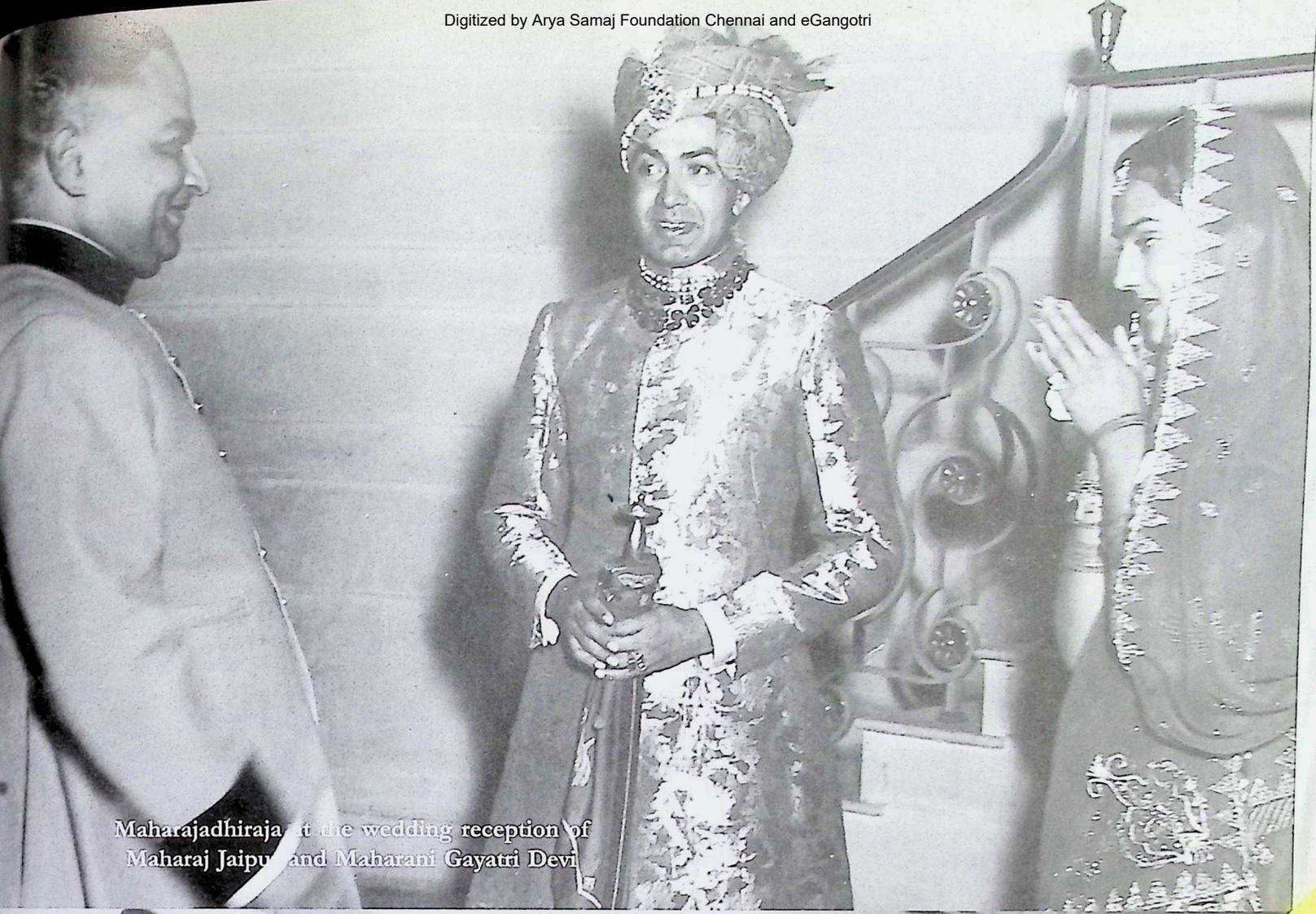
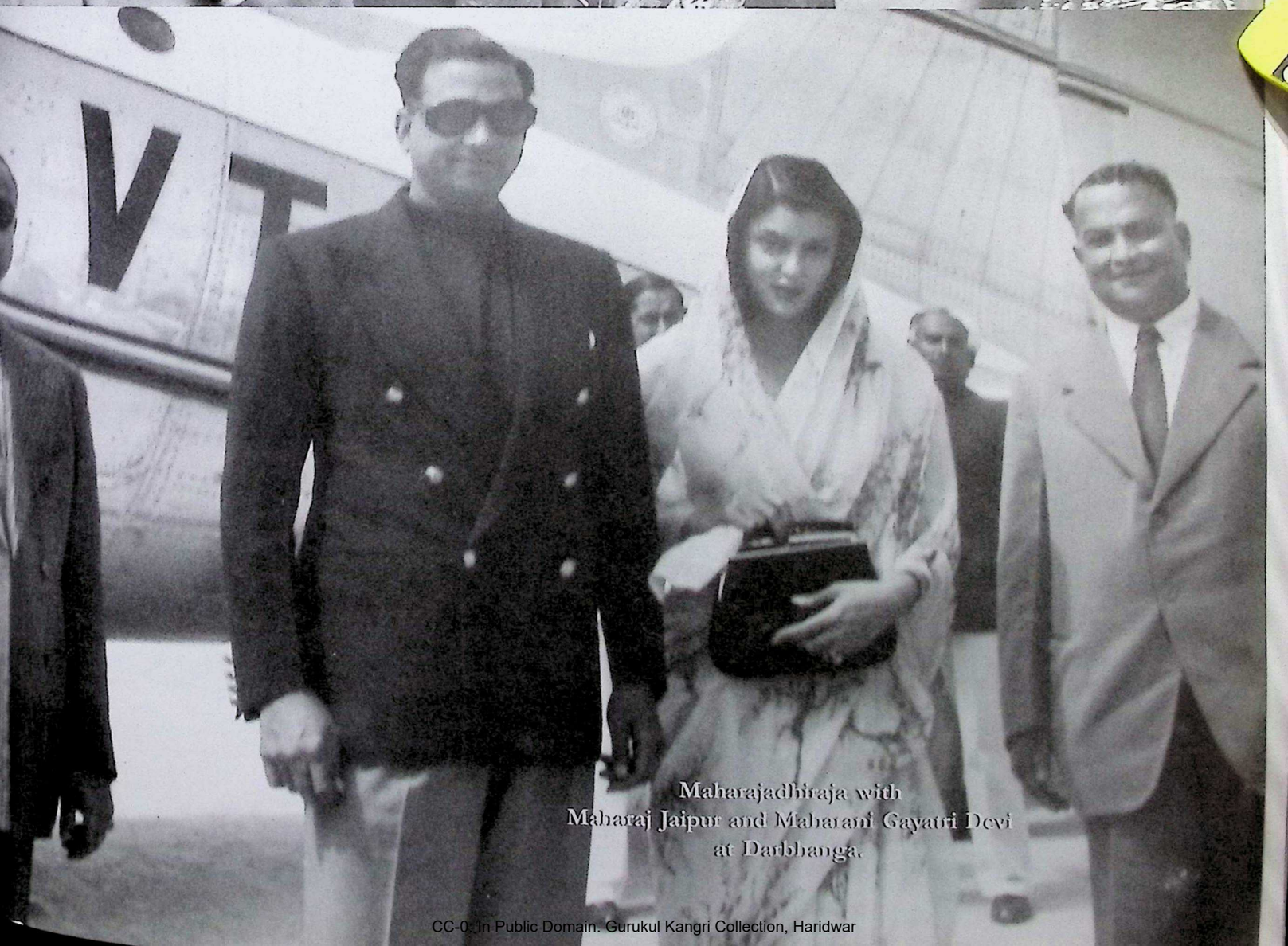


Maharajadhiraja at the wedding reception of
Maharaj Jaipur and Maharani Gayatri Devi



Maharajadhiraja with
Maharaj Jaipur and Maharani Gayatri Devi
at Darbhanga.

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Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh with Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur and Lady Mountbaten

Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh with Maharani Gayatri Devi of Jaipur

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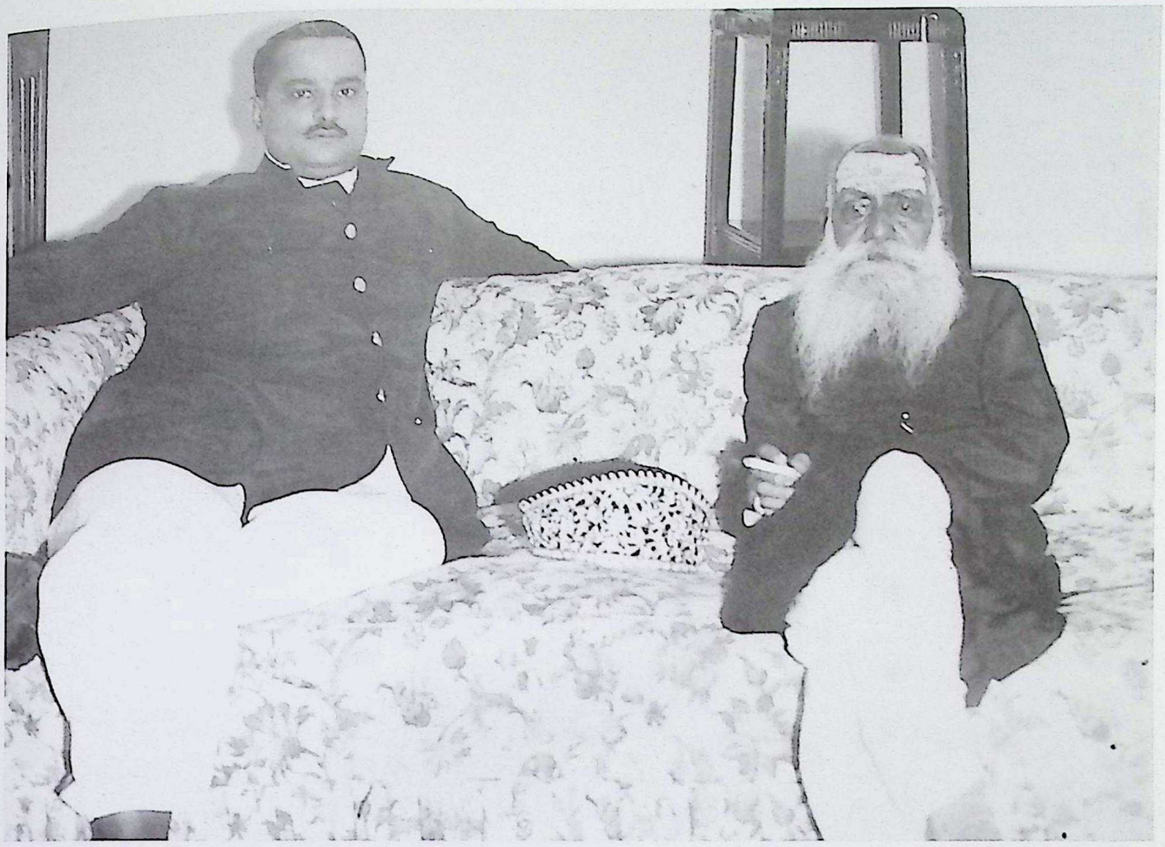
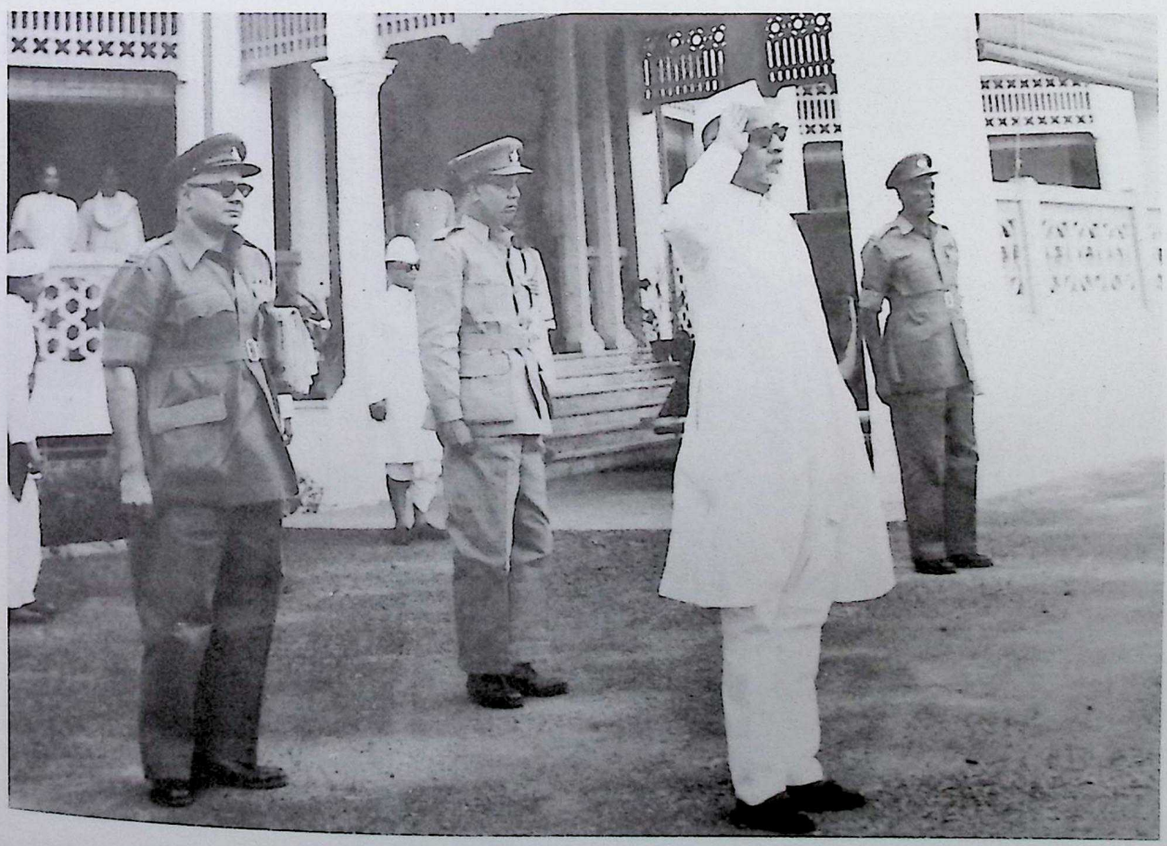


Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh with a very eminent Maharaja



Dr. Zakir Hussain at Nargaona Palace, Darbhanga

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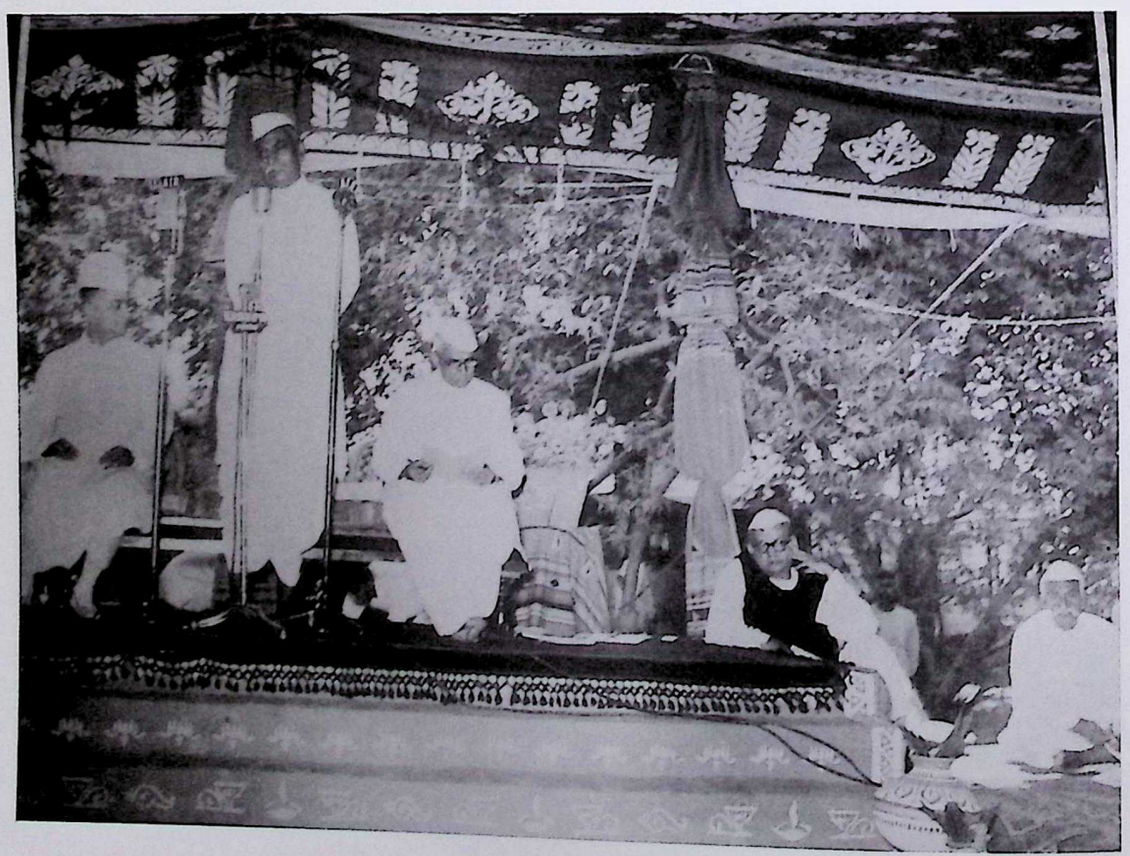
Banquet at Anandbagh Palace, Darbhanga



Dr. Rajendra Prasad with Maharajadhiraja and Sri Krishna Sinha

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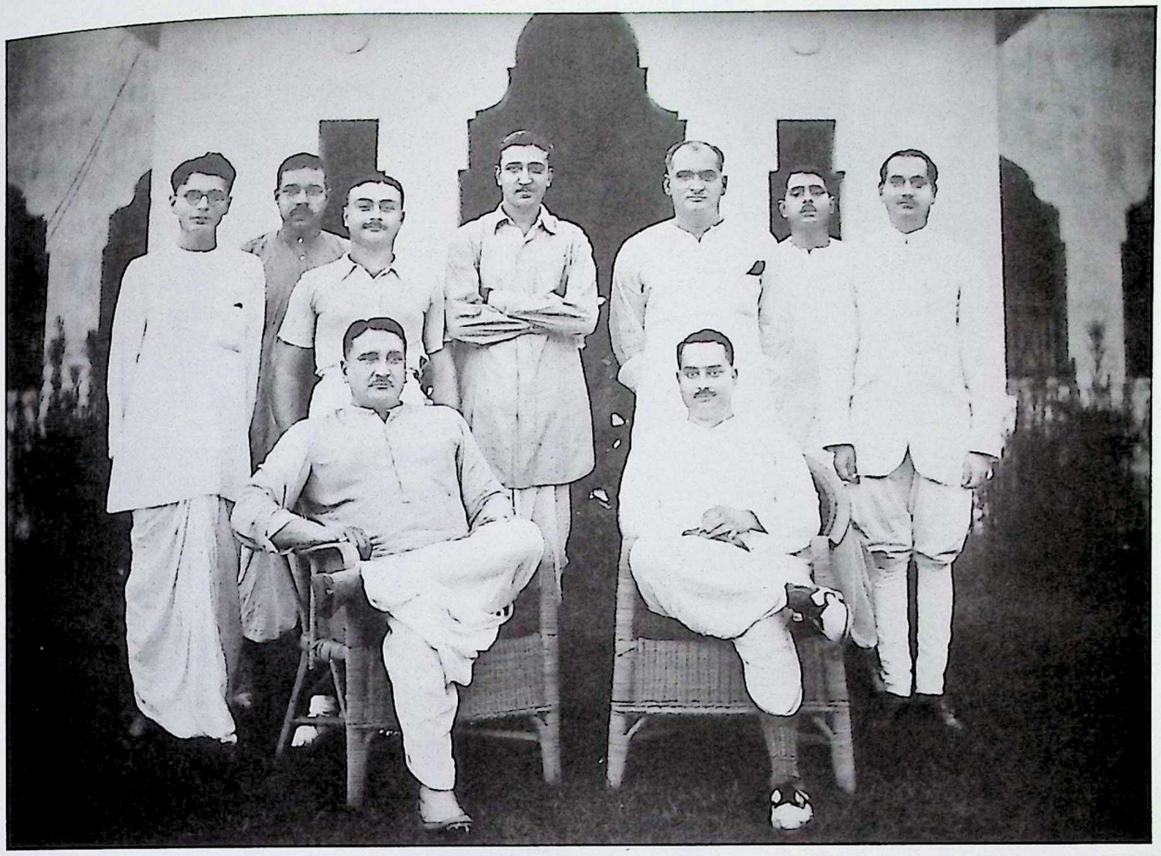
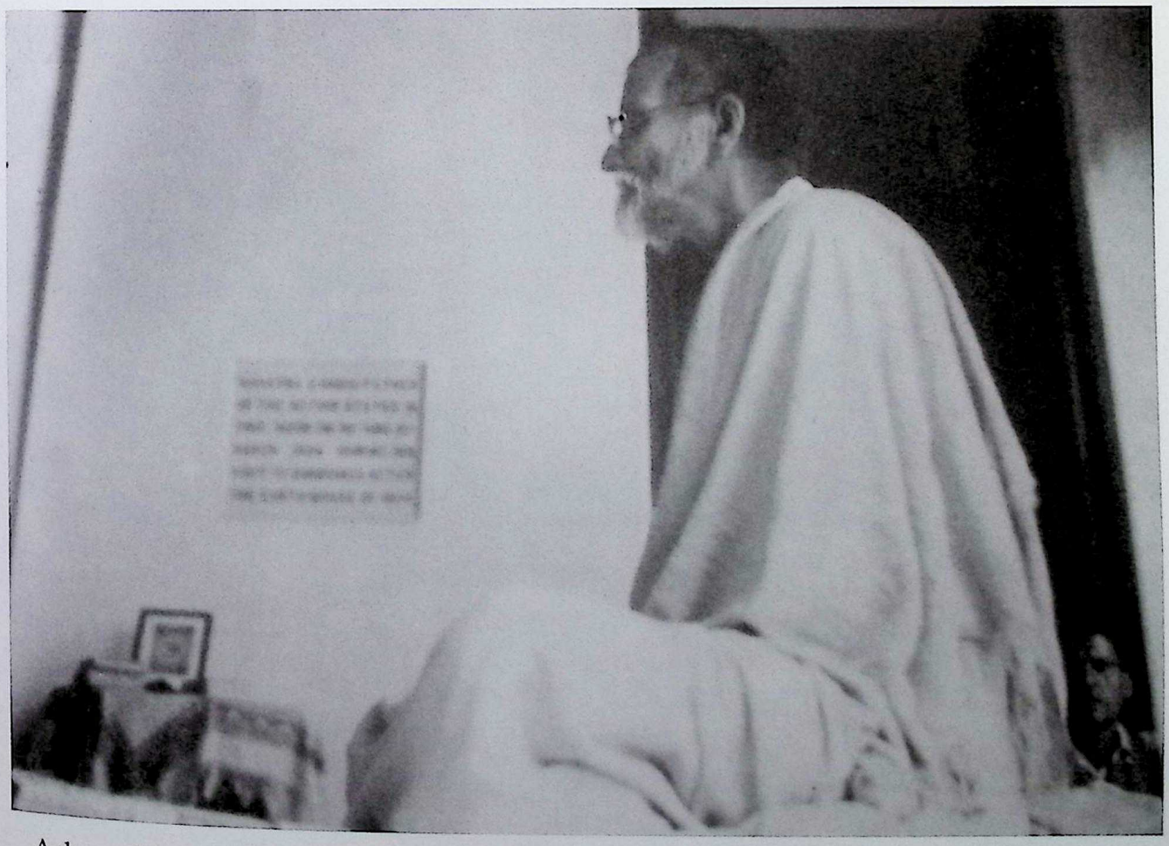


Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh with the members of the drama group of Raj Darbhanga



Acharya Vinoba Bhave in the guest room at Darbhanga. Mahatma Gandhi had also stayed in this room when he had visited Darbhanga

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Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh and Raja Bahadur Visheshwar Singh with Maharaja of Tripura

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Welcoming Maharaja Bikaner at Darbhanga Station

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OFFICE OF THE LAND ACQUISTION COLLECTOR
5, Bankshall Street, Calcutta

Memo No. R. 232/1964 Dated 3rd March' 44

To
The Financial Agent,
Raj Darbhanga
9, Park Lane, Calcutta

Re : 42, Chowringnee Road, Calcutta

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge with thanks your letter No. I/252 dt. 24.02.44 informing that the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Darbhanga has offered the above premises to Her Excellency the Lady Wavell free of rent as long as the place is utilized for the present purpose.

I have etc.

Sd/-
S.P. Sarkar
Land Acquisition Collector,
Calcutta

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19, Albert Road,
Allahabad

17th November 1944

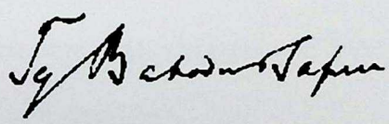
My dear Maharaja Dhiraj Bahadur,

Dr. Amaranatha Jha, Vice-Chancellor of the Allahabad University, who is so well known to you, and Dr. Tara Chand will be seeing you and present this letter to you. They both and I are interested in a scheme for the writing and publishing in 12 volumes of a history of India written by Indian themselves. The scheme has been very well received in the country and we have been collecting funds for it. Already we have got over Rs. 1,25,000.00/-.

I know how generous you are in the cause of learning and culture. May I make a fervent appeal to you to help the scheme?

With kind regards,

Yours Sincerely,



Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru

Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwar Singh Bahadur of Darbhanga,
Darbhanga

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Wednesday Evening
14th March' 1945

My Dear K,

Once before I told you that though I was repaying the loan, I could never repay the thoughtfulness and concern for a friend which led you to come so spontaneously and promptly to his help.

Now it seems that you wont let him repay the loan even!

K, what can I say? Trite as it may sound, honestly words seem inadequate and wont come. You must however know without my saying so in so many words how deeply I appreciate the spirit underlying your idea, and even if I don't feel quite happy about it, I must accept it in the same spirit.

I will set apart this amount as a special gift from you to Archie.

What more can I say, but "Thank You" once more.

Love,

Yours ever,

U

(This is a personal letter of Maharajadhiraja of Jaipur to Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga)

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Director (India, Burma & Ceylon)
Jean Begg

Ph. PK3294
PK2091

Y.M.C.A. WELFARE
HEAD QUARTERS
2A, MIDDLETON STHEET
CALCUTTA

28th May, 1945.

His Highness,
The Maharajdhiraj of Darbhanga

Dear Sir,

We are anxious now to have a public opening ceremony of the Kameshwari club which has been built, with Your Highness's permission, on the vacant piece of ground at 2A Middleton Street.

We are most anxious that Your Highness attend the ceremony and take part in it, so as to show yet further, your interest in the welfare of the women of the Services, as well as to give everyone a chance to know our benefactor.

Mrs. Casey, wife of the Governor of Bengal, will join Your Highness in performing the opening ceremony. She has kindly indicated that she is willing to leave the settling of the date of the opening to Your Highness, as it will mean your making a special trip to town.

What is the first date that you plan to come to calcutta? If it is not too far distant, and if you kindly consent to attend an Opening Ceremony, we will try to arrange the Ceremony. We don't mind if it is a slightly later in the year, say July or August, but please do say you will be coming to town soon.

Hundreds of Service women have already used the house in the Darbhanga property (The Lady Mary Herbert club, The Zenana House, and the new Kameshwari club) for transit and leave purposes. In fact, there are thousands of women who are grateful to you already for a comfortable and happy time in calcutta.

Hoping to hear from you soon

I am, Highness,
Your sincerely,

Jean Begg

Jean Begg
Director YWCA Welfare

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DIRECTON INDIA SUMMA & CEYLON
JEAN BEGG

Y.W.C.A. WELFARE
HEADQUARTERS
MIDDLETON STREET
CALCUTTA

13th June, 1945.

His Highness,
The Maharajdhiraja of Darbhanga
Dear Sir,

With further reference to my letter to you of 28th May last, I have now been assured that the extensions now being made in the grounds of the lady Mary Herbert club section of our Y.M.C.A. welfare compound, will be completed next month. In view of this, therefore, it is hoped that the date of 1st august may be a convenient one on which to plan to have the opening ceremeny and thus combine the two building schemes at this function.

I do hope this date will suit your Highness, and shall anxiously await your reply.

I am,
Highness,
Yours sincerely,

Jean Begg

Jean Begg
DIRECTOR YWCA WELFARE

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The Palace,
Rampur State, (U.P.)
4th june, 1945

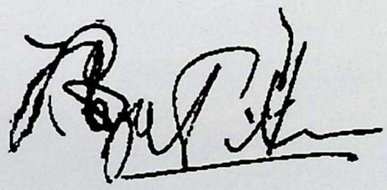
My dear Bhai,

Many thanks for your letter of the 30th May. In view of the age old relations existing between you and myself, I am not going to accept the excuses laid down in your letter regarding a donation from you for the Technical Institute, which I am contemplating to start for the young men of our country.

I shall, however, speak to you in person when we meet next at the National Defence Council, and explain the great necessity for the establishment of an institution like this. If, however, I could not see you then, I shall either make an effort to get you to Rampur, or shall come to Darbhanga myself.

Trusting this finds you in the enjoyment of excellent health and with kindest regards.

Yours affectionately



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ALL INDIA DEPRESSED CLASSES LEAGUE

Kadamkuan, Patna
21/6/1945

Dear Maharajadhiraj,

Though not personally known to you, I take the liberty of addressing you on a matter which vitally affects the Hindu Society. I am enclosing herewith a copy of the note on the Viceregal offer which I have submitted to H.E. the Viceroy, Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress President. I am also enclosing a copy of the statement which I issued to the press. It is requested that you kindly go through them.

I propose to go to Simla and approach all the Hindu and non-Muslim members there and impress upon the absurdity of the parity proposition as well as the need of giving adequate representation to the Scheduled Castes. I have also called a meeting of the working committee of the League.

As you are aware, members of the Depressed classes are extremely poor and not in a position to meet the expenses of a long journey and of a stay at a highly expensive place. Working Committee members are scattered over, Madras, Bombay, C.P., Bengal, Behar, U.P. and the Punjab.

The paucity of fund is standing as a great impediment in our way of doint the works desired by us, in connection with the Viceregal offer. But the work must be done.

We have no alternative but to look up to you who has the good of the Hindu community at heart, for help in this direction. I therefore, request you to be good enough to send without delay at least a sum of Rs.1000/- only and thus help us in making our best efforts for averting a death blow which has already been aimed at the Hindu Society. I may add that I shall not be in a position to move up to Simla if I do not get a favourable response from you.

Hoping to be favoured with a generous response,

I remain,
Sincerely yours,
Jagjiwan Ram M.L.A.
Jagjiwan Ram
M.L.A.
President

(A copy of the note prepared by Jagjiwan Ram is given in the Appendix)

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MEMBER FOR EDUCATION
INDIA

19 Akbar Road
New Delhi

October 9. 1947

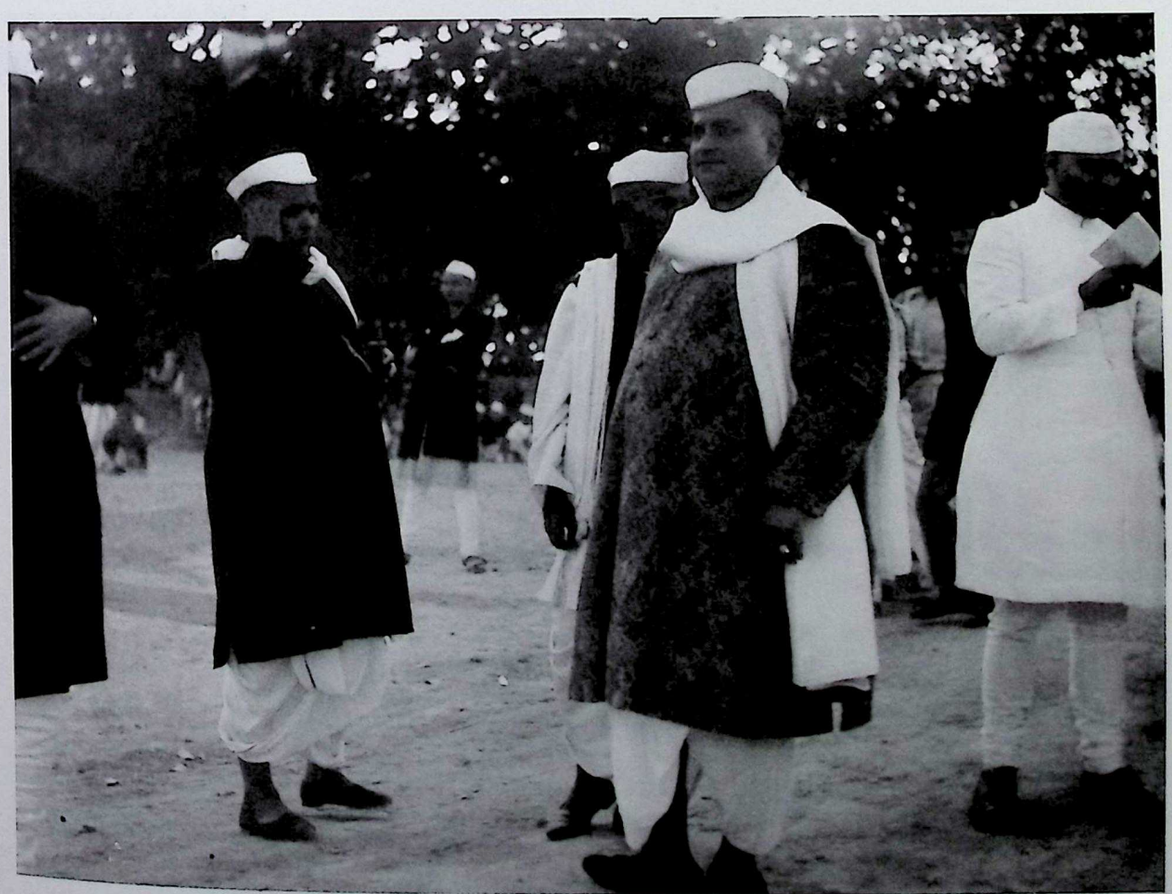
Dear Maharaja Sahib,

The Maulana thanks you for the cheque for Rs.10,000/- only, which he has received yesterday by post.

Yours sincerely

M. Ajmal Khan

M. Ajmal Khan
Pr. Secy to Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad



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Agent,
Darbhanga Castle, Allahabad

His Highness has permitted Dr.Pattabhi Sitaramaiya to hold meeting in Darbhanga Castle from 21st to 25th February.

Sd/-
G. Sinha

Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramaiya
Swarajya Bhawan Allahabad

Agent Darbhanga Castle instructed to allow you hold meeting from 21st to 25th as asked by Anugrah Babu.

Private Secretary
Maharaja Darbhanga
15.2.1947

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The Maharaja of Darbhanga came to meet me. He said he has had a talk with Mritunjay Babu, and has asked him to contact his man in Patna, see the house and make necessary arrangements for marriage. He said the **Government wanted to take over his Delhi House also**. Since the zamindari has been abolished, he would love to spend more time in Delhi, but if the house is taken away, he will be put to much difficulty. Earlier too, the Government had raised this subject, but **because of Sardar Patel's intercession it was dropped.**

.....Dr. Rajendra Prasad
(Entry in his notes)

Dr. Rajendra Prasad : Correspondence and Select Documents,
By Valmiki Choudhary pg.no. 273

With the officials and personal staff

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EMBASSY OF INDIA
NEPAL

October4, 1951

My dear Maharadhiraja,

His Majesty the king of Nepal wishes me to convey to you his grateful thanks for the loan of your house at Calcutta during his last visit. He has now been able to fix the marriage of his third daughter with the Maharaj Kumar of Mayurbhunj. This marriage is likely to take place some time in February. His Majesty would like to perform this ceremony in Calcutta. For this purpose, he has made enquiries if it would be possible for you to be generous enough to place your house at his disposal. After hearing from you in this connection, I shall again communicate regarding the period for which the house may be required.

Trust you are keeping very fit.

With kindest regards

I remain, Yours very sincerely,

Maharajadhiraja Dr. Sir Kameshwar Singh Bahadur,
7, Mansingh Road, Delhi

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Phone : 45818

Cable : REDCORNER

A.K.Gopalan, M.P.

COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE

2, WINDSOR PLACE, NEW DELHI

To
Shri Kameshwara Singh
The Palace, Darbhanga

Dear Shri Kameshwara Singhji,

Please excuse me for writing this personal letter and troubling you. I am herewith enclosing an appeal for funds started in my village. I, as one of the members of the Committee have to find out 10,000/- rupees for erecting a pucca building before March, 1957.

As a collegues of yours in the Parliament I approach you and request you to help the xxxxx in this endeavor. I know that you have spent thousand of rupees for such benificial charities and endowments. The amount may be sent to the Secretary, Peralasseri High School Committee, P.O. Mundalore, North Malabar.

I hope you will honour my request and thanking you,

Yours Sincerely

22nd December, 1956

A.K. Gopalan

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स्था०-1940
Founded - 1940

फोन - 18
Phone No. 18

महारानी अधिरानी

कामेश्वरी प्रिया पूअर होम

Maharani - Adhirani

KAMESHWARI PRIYA POOR HOME

Darbhanga

Letter No. 310/58

Dated 24.11.58

Your Highness,

We have been holding the biggest Blind Relief Camp for the last fourteen years, a statement of the acheivement of which is enclosed for Your Highness' kind perusal.

We had been receiving an annual grant of Rs. 5000/- from Raj Darbhanga for this laudable purpose, and the Government when took over the charge of the zamindari, assured to pay this amount but now the Government are unwilling to pay the same and therefore it has become difficult to hold this good work, this year.

Your Highness' most
obedient,

Sd/-
D.L. Singh
Secretary.

Deenath. 24/11/58

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The Maharanidhirani Kameshwari Priya poor Home, Darbhanga.
Statement of the achivement of the last 14 years.

Year	No. of Operations	No. of Persons received	No. of persons raceived prescription	Total No. of beneficiaries	No. of eyes declared Septic.	Total expenditure	Average expense per operation	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1944	2517	1548	497	4499	29	24519	9.5	
1945	1819	914	243	2976	27	20141	11	
1946	1127	773	127	2027	28	13283	11.5	
1947	2111	933	157	3251	24	13033	5.5	
1948	1307	781	125	2713	10	12087	7	
1949	2027	1108	326	3455	20	15591	3	
1950	1803	902	211	2916	20	18130	10	
1951	2107	397	941	9237	16	18408	9	
1952	1312	776	348	2937	18	15000	3.5	
1953	1910	948	132	2937	15	18819	7.5	
1954	2110	1048	152	3310	24	15510	7.5	
1955	1774	1137	149	3060	1	14889	3.5	
1956	1327	1097	211	3135	22	14020	3	
1957	2143	987	213	3346	16	13300	6.5	
Total	86910	13889	3085	43334	208	221419	3.5	

Deonath.

General Secretery

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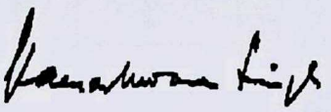
The Palace
Darbhanga

July 21, 1958

My dear Kumar Sahib,

Apropos my talk with you regarding the establishment of a Sanskrit University by the Government of Bihar, I write to say that I shall make a gift of my Lakshmishwar Vilas Palace and my Sanskrit library to the Government for the purpose of the Sanskrit University, if they decide to locate it at Darbhanga. You may kindly communicate this offer to the Chief Minister. I trust that Government will now expedite the establishment of the University.

Yours sincerely,



Kameshwar Singh

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दान-पत्र की सच्ची प्रतिलिपि का हिन्दी रूपान्तर।

बिहार के तत्कालीन शिक्षा-मंत्री के नाम लिखे गये दाता के पत्र की सच्ची प्रतिलिपि

दरभंगा के स्वर्गीय महाराजाधिराज सर रामेश्वर सिंह के पुत्र महाराजाधिराज सर कामेश्वर सिंह ने, जिनकी इसके आगे दाता शब्द से सम्बोधित किया जायगा, जिनमें उनके उत्तराधिकारी और प्रतिनिधि भी सम्मिलित हैं, बिहार कि राज्यपाल के नाम, जिनको इसके आगे दान-ग्रहीता शब्द से सम्बोधित किया जायगा, जिसमे उनके पदेन उतराधिकारी और प्रतिनिधि भी सम्मिलित है, नीचे लिखे अनुबन्धों के साथ, 1960 के मार्च महीने के तीसवें दिन, यह दान-पत्र लिखा।

चूंकि दाता ने दरभंगा नगर में अवस्थित "लक्ष्मीश्वर-विलास" नामक अपना प्रसाद उसके आस पास की सम्बद्ध भूमि के साथ "संस्कृत-विश्वविद्यालय" के लिए दान देना स्वीकार किया बशर्ते कि वह विश्वविद्यालय दरभंगे में स्थापित और अवस्थित किया जाये और चूंकि बिहार-विधान सभा द्वारा दरभंगे में इस तरह के एक विश्वविद्यालय को स्थापित करने के लिए एक अधिनियम पारित किया जा चुका है, जिसको बिहार के राज्यपाल की स्वीकृति भी प्राप्त हो चुकी है और चूँकि बिहार राज्यपाल ने दरभंगे में इस प्रकार का एक विश्वविद्यालय अगले सत्र से स्थापित करने का प्रस्ताव किया है और चूंकि सम्बद्ध भूमि के साथ अपने उपर्युक्त भवन को दरभंगे में "संस्कृत - विश्वविद्यालय के उपयोग के लिए" दान देने को दाता इच्छुक है, और चूंकि दान-ग्रहीता उपर्युक्त दान को स्वीकार करने को इच्छुक हैं और चुंकि एक उचित दान-पत्र लिख देना आवश्यक है, अतः यह दान-पत्र प्रमाणित करता है कि

1. दरभंगा नगर मे अवस्थित लक्ष्मी-वर-विलास-प्रसाद" नामक भवन, उससे सम्बद्ध भूकि जिसका पूर्ण विवरण परिशिष्ट "ए" में दे दिया गया है तथा भूमि के नक्शे में जिसे लाल और पीले रंगो मे पृथक कर दिया गया है और जिसे "बी" से चिहित कर दिया गया है और जो इस दान-पत्र का अंग है, उसे "कामेश्वरसिंह दरभंगा संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय अधिनियम, 1960 के उपबन्धों के अनुसार स्थापित संस्कृत-विश्वविद्यालय के उपयोग के लिये" दाता इसके दान ग्रहीता को हस्तान्तरित और प्रत्यर्पित करते है।

2. दान ग्रहीता इस दान को स्वीकार करते है और कामेश्वरसिंह दरभंगा संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय अधिनियम, 1960 के अनुसार स्थापित संस्कृत-विश्वविद्यालय के लिए ही दान-पत्र के द्वारा प्रदत्त भवन और भूमि का उपयोग करने को सहमत होते है।

3. दाता को नरगौना में स्थित अपने आवासीय प्रासाद में आने-जाने के मार्ग के उपयोग को अधिकार रहेगा जो मार्ग लक्ष्मीश्वर विलास-प्रसाद के सटे पूर्व से निकलता है और जिसे "बी" चिह्नित नक्शे में पीले रंग से पृथ्क दिखाया गया है और उनके यातायात के अधिकार का उपयोग दाता और उनके कार्यकर्त्ता नरगौना प्रसाद में जाने-आने में कर सकते है।

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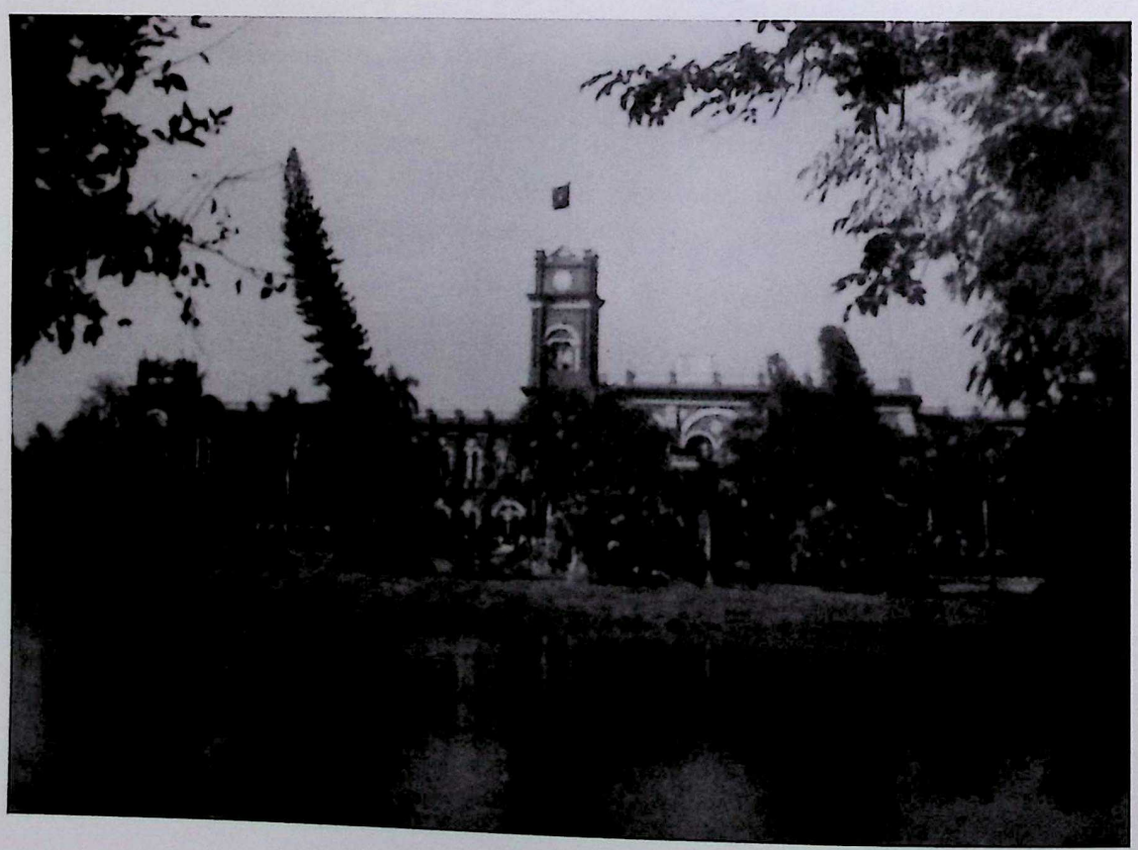
4. लक्ष्मीश्वर विलास प्रसाद के सटे पश्चिम में अवस्थित तालाब के सटे दक्षिण में पश्चिम से पूर्व की ओर जानेवाली सड़क, जिसे पृथक् कृत तथा "बी" चिह्नित नक्शे में हरे रंग में दिखलाया गया है, विश्वविद्यालय में आने जाने वाले लोगो के उपयोग में आयेगी, किन्तु सामान्य जनता या अन्य कार्य के लिए खुली नही रहेगी।

5. लक्ष्मीश्वर-विलास प्रासाद के सटे पूर्व से जाने वाली सड़क पर, जहाँ दान में दी गयी भूमि का अन्त होता है, दाता एक फाटक बनवा सकते है।

जिनके प्रमाण के रूप में दाता ने यह दान-पत्र लिख दिया है और दान-ग्रहीता ने दान स्वीकार करने के प्रमाण में अपना हस्ताक्षर कर दिया है।

दान-ग्रहीता-ह०-पी० एस० अप्पू, दाता

30.3.60 **कामेश्वर सिंह**



Anand Bagh Palace donated to Sanskrit University

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(30.3.1960 को संस्कृत-विश्वविद्यालय के लिए अपना भवन और संस्कृत पुस्तकालय बिहार सरकार को हस्तान्तरित करते समय दरभंगा के स्वर्गीय महाराजाधिराज डा॰ सर कामेश्वर सिंह के भाषण की प्रतिलिपि का हिन्दी रूपान्तर।)

इंडियन नेशन, दिनांक 1.4.1960

डा॰ जाकिर हुसैन साहब, बिहारकेसरी, महिलाओं और सज्जनो!

जिन वस्तुओं को किसी ने अपने बाल्यकाल से ही न केवल प्यार ही किया हो बल्कि समादर भी किया हो, उनसे अलग होना सामान्यतः दुःखद होता है किन्तु राज्यपाल जी ने और मुख्य मंत्री महोदय ने जो संस्कृत-विश्वविद्यालय का केन्द्र बनाने के लिए उसे ग्रहण करने की कृपा कर, स्वयं यहाँ पधारने का कष्ट किया है, इससे मुझे प्रसन्नता है।

डा॰ जाकिर हुसैन साहब, मै आपका अत्यन्त कृतज्ञ हुँ, जो स्वयं आपने कृपा-पूवर्क आज के अपराहण में यहाँ पधारने का कष्ट किया। मैं अपने मुख्य मंत्री महोदय का भी आभारी हूँ, जिन्होने ने केवल मेरे अनुरोध को स्वीकार ही किया, बल्कि मिथिला में संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना में गहरी दिलचस्पी ली। यदि हमारे शिक्षा-मंत्री महोदय का उनके पद भार ग्रहण करने के समय से ही लगातार समर्थन और सहयोग नहीं प्राप्त होता, तो शायद यह स्वप्न साकार नहीं हो पाता। संस्कृत की विद्वत्ता के सम्मान में आज से चार सौ वर्ष पहले हमारे पूर्वज महामहोपाध्याय महाराज महेश ठाकुर को बादशाह अकबर ने तिरहुत का राज्य दिया था। इसलिए यह बिल्कुल उचित है कि हमारा संस्कृत पुस्तकालय, जिसको हमारे पूर्वजों ने वंशपरम्परा से विगत शताब्दी में संघटित किया है, वह संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय के पुस्तकालय का केन्द्र बने। यह भी उचित है कि लक्ष्मीश्वर-विलास-प्रसाद जो कि केवल हम लोगों का घर ही नहीं था, बल्कि वह स्थान था, जहाँ अनेक वर्षों तक राज के अनेक प्रकार के उत्सव होते रहे, वह संस्कृत-विश्वविद्यालय का स्थान बने। मुझे पूर्ण विश्वास है कि संस्कृत विश्व विद्यालय केवल जीवित ही नहीं रहेगा बल्कि इस प्राचीन भूमि में जो कुछ भी उत्तम तत्त्व है, उसको प्रोत्साहित करेगा और उसका उद्धार करेगा।

इसी विश्वास के साथ मै आप के हाथों में वह बहुमूल्य खजाना सौंप रहा हूँ, जो मैने पैतृक सम्पत्ति के रूप में पाया है, और विश्वास करता हूँ कि आपकी छत्र-छाया में संस्कृत-शिक्षा की श्री-वृद्धि होगी। संस्कृत सदा अमर रहे।

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Darbhanga House
New Delhi

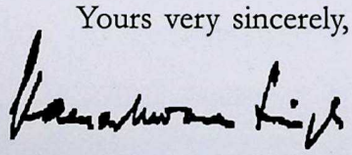
May 3, 1960

PRIVATE

My dear Shri Babu,

With regard to the appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of the Sanskrit University, I wonder if it would be possible for you to spare Mr. Sohoni at least for a year from his present duties and appoint him as the Vice-Chancellor. The University will need a Sanskrit lover, who is more of an administrator than a teacher to enable it to make a good start. You must undoubtedly be aware that Sri Sampurnanand jee posted his Chief Secretary for the Vice-Chancellorship of the Varanasi Sanskrit University. I feel therefore that the appointment of Mr. Sohoni will be of a great value to the Sanskrit University, I shall be grateful if you will be good enough to consider favourably my proposal.

With kind regards,
Yours very sincerely,



Kameshwar Singh

Dr. Shrikrishna Singh
Chief Minister's House
Patna

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Patna

23.2.1961

सदस्य,
बिहार विधान सभा

Most revered Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga,

Since the dawn of Indian Independence, we the scheduled tribes of the wild regions of Bihar, have been trying for our long cherished inancipation and for the progress along with the rest of the Indian union. Of course, we are making some progress with whatever help and co-operation we have been getting at the hands of the Govt. but we feel that great impediment to the path of our progress is the lack of education and for this we are determined to see that our younger generation received the right type of education which may help the tribal area in receiving and maintaining the old Hindu cultural traditions and convictions.

The missionary force, so active in our area, has been simply alluring us through its schools, hospitals and other acts of charities to forget ourselves-forget our traditional culture along with our spiritual heritage and embrace an alien religion to our helpless self humiliation.

It is why the "ADIVASI SAMAJ SUDHAR SABHA" Has been constituted with the chief aim of propagating the cause of ideal education among the tribal children for their socio economic growth and academical aquisitions in conformity to the requirements of the modern age and approved by the glorious traditions of our Indian Nationality.

We have been seeing with grave concern that due to the dearth of academical institutions aided or run by our Government. Our childern are left no alternative, but to get themselves entrapped under the surroundings of baptists' schools, where they are trained and schooled to despise and discard their age honoured Hindu culture the backbone of our Indian nationality.

Under these circumstances, the aforesaid sabha has started getting a hostel constructed at Gumla - (Ranchi) to accommodate at least 400 Hindu students only where they would be given every facility for receiving religious instructions along with their prescribed courses of respective studies.

It is further purposed that with a view to propagate our traditional Hindu culture among the mass and to combat the menacing cliques of the missionaries the students would be entrusted with the duty of moving in the rural intention of habitation as during their vacations and convince the self forgotten people that the so called generosity of a Baptist is simply will - othe- wisp to allure them to distribution.

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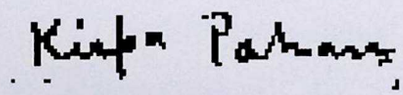
This is all our pious ambition to protect our selves and our traditional cultural heritage, but the tragedy is that financial stringency is blocking our way to the implementation of our cherished scheme. We feel that we can hardly find any more generous self than your Highness, whom we may approach for help and blessing and we are all the more encouraged to approach your Highness, when we think that a generous self who has even given as gift his historic place like Anandbag and one of the richest libraries of the land for the propagation of sanskrit, would surely patronise this resourced sabha for the revival, retention and propagation of our Hindu sanskriti, so dear and so valuable for all of us on dated ..... at Patna. I had met your Highness at patna. Afterwards I sent an appeal on 28.9.60 Again I was lucky to see your Highness on 27th Nov. 1960 evening at Calcutta, when your Highness had given assurance. The completion of the hostel remains upon the honorable hands of your Highness. Hence we the adibasis expect to receive the cheque within a week.

With hope and submission.
I beg to remain.
Your Highness's
ever loyal



Kirpa Pahan (M.L.A)
60 Legislatures Club
Gardiner Road (Patna) 1.

Maharajadhiraja Dr. Sir Kameshwar Singh, M.P.
Darbhanga House
Darbhanga

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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Lalit Narayan Mishra
Deputy Minister
Labour Employment & Planning
India

7 York Road
January 12, 1962

My Dear Respected Maharajadhiraj Saheb,

This morning I tried my best to gather courage and tell you my real difficulties in the election, but I could not do so. My election this time is not going to be a smooth one. It calls for considerable amount of resources which will be perhaps beyond my capacity. I do not know how to meet this task.

With your blessings alone, I have been able to maintain my public life so far. Hence I can look to nobody except yourself in this hour of difficulty. I will be in Delhi till the 14th instant.

Praying to be excused for the trouble.

With kindest regards,
Yours obediently

Lalit Narayan Mishra

Lalit Narayan Mishra

H.H. The Maharajadhiraj Sri Kameshwar Singh of Darbhanga,
Darbhanga House, New Delhi.

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सदाकत आश्रम, पटना।
प्रवास : लेक व्यू गेस्ट हाउस
हैदराबाद, आं. प्र.

4 जुलाई 1962

श्रद्धेय महाराजा साहब।

आपने बड़ी कृपा करके प्लेन पटना भेज दिया जिससे मैं बहुत आराम के साथ कल यहां डेढ़ बजे दिन में पहुँच गया। प्लेन में हर तरह से आराम रहा और समय भी बहुत कम लगा। इसके लिये मेरा बहुत धन्यवाद स्वीकार करें और मेरी ओर से पायलेट और जहाज के दूसरे कार्यकर्त्ताओं को धन्यवाद पहुँचा दिया जाये।

मेरी तबीयत सुस्त है और पटना की आबो हवा के कारण खांसी वगैरह बढ़ गई थी। मैं उम्मीद करता हूँ कि यहाँ जल्द स्वस्थ हो जाऊँगा। मेरी पत्नी की तबीयत ज्यादा खराब है। वे बहुत दिनों से बीमार रहीं है और उठना बैठना, चलना फिरना उनके लिए असंभव हो गया है। किसी तरह से उनको गोदी में उठाकर कुर्सी पर रख दिया जाता है और पहिया लगी हुई कुर्सी इधर उधर एक कमरे से दूसरे कमरे उनको ले जाती है। उनको मैंने इस लिये अपने साथ लाना उचित समझा कि मेरी गैरहाजिरी में वे चिन्तित और दु:खी रहती और मैं भी जहाँ रहता चिन्तित रहता। यहाँ की आबो हवा भी अच्छी है इस लिये उनकी तबीयत भी कुछ सुधर सकती है। और सब आपकी कृपा से यहां आनन्द है।

मेरे बड़े लड़के मृत्युंजय पटना में ही हैं मगर छोटा लड़का धनंजय और उनकी स्त्री अपनी माता की सेवा के लिये यहां आयी हैं।

आशा है कि आप स्वस्थ होंगे।

आपका

राजेन्द्र प्रसाद

महाराजाधिराज दरभंगा,
दरभंगा हाऊस,
3, मिडलटन स्ट्रीट,
कलकता, 16

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दरभंगा हाउस,
3, मिडिलटन स्ट्रीट,
कलकत्ता-16।

अगस्त, 9, 1962

प्रिय सत्येन्द्र बाबू,

कृपया अपने पत्रांक 1945 दिनांक 11 जुलाई, 1962 का निर्देश करें।

1. यह बात मेरे कानों तक पहुँची है कि कुछ ऐसे कालेजों को - जो संस्कृतेतर विषयों के अध्यापन करते है और राज्य में कार्य करने वाले क्षेत्रीय विश्वविद्यालय के अधिकार क्षेत्र में उचित रूप से है, संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय के अधिकार क्षेत्र में लाकर इसके रूप में परिवर्तन करने की चेष्टा की जा रही है। मेरी समझ से संस्कृत- विश्वविद्यालय का मुख्य उद्देश्य, पाली और प्राकृत के साथ संस्कृत का विशिष्ट ज्ञान देना होना चाहिये जिससे कि प्राचीन विद्वत्ता की रक्षा हो और यथा-संभव अद्यतन बनाया जा सके। इस विश्वविद्यालय के विशिष्ट स्वरूप की रक्षा अवश्य ही होनी चाहिए। मैने इस विश्वविद्यालय के लिये जो दान दिया वह इसलिए दिया कि मेरे पूज्य पिता जी की इच्छा की इससे पूर्ति होती थी। "यदि इस विश्व विद्यालय को क्षेत्रीय सामान्य विश्वविद्यालय का रूप दिया जायगा तो मै समझूँगा कि मेरा दिया हुआ दान बरबाद हो गया"।

   यदि सरकार मिथिला में एक क्षेत्रीय विश्वविद्यालय स्थापित करे तो मै इसका स्वागत करूगाँ किन्तु उसे संस्कृत-विश्वविद्यालय के साथ किसी भी रूप में मिलाना नहीं चाहिये जो कि एक निश्चित उद्देश्य और निश्चित विचार से स्थापित किया गया है। वह विश्वविद्यालय इससे सर्वथा पृथक् रहना चाहिए।

2. मेरे नाम का शुद्ध विवरण "कामेश्वर सिंह" है न कि "कामेस्वर सिंह"।

3. मेरे पास भेजे गये विधेयक के प्रारूप पर मुझे सामान्यतः कोई टिप्पणी नहीं करनी है। किन्तु यदि इसमें कोई परिवर्तन हुआ तो स्थिति भिन्न हो जाएगी।

भवदीय,

कामेश्वर सिंह

सेवा में,
श्री एस॰ एन॰ सिंह
शिक्षा मंत्री, बिहार, पटना।

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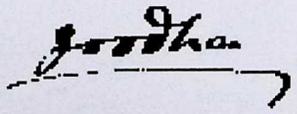
Nepal

9th January 1933

My dear Maharajadhiraja Bahadur

I write to offer you my hearty congratulations on the honor which His Majesty has graciously been pleased to do you by appointing to be a knight Commander of the Most Eminent Order of the Indian Expire. Betokening as it does the appreciation of the high merit which you possess and have been evincing so very conspicuously your acquisition of the order stands as a source as much of great pleasure to us as it must be gratifying to your good-self. May you live long to enjoy it and gain fresh and still higher honors to the delight of your many friends among whom while subscribing myself as one I remain with kind regards.

Yours very sincerely



Maharaja Nepal

To,
Maharajdhiraja Sir Kameswar Singh Bahadur K.C.I.E.
The Palace, Darbhanga

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D.O.No. 3919

SECRET

VICEREGAL LODGE
SIMLA

The 27th/28th August, 1935

My dear Maharaja Saheb,

Very many thanks for your letter of August the 23rd enclosing a tentative programme for their Excellencies' Visit to Darbhanga in November.

I have placed the programme before their Excellencies, and they approve of it generally, but there are one or two modifications which are necessary, and I give them below :-

(a) We have had to make an alteration in their Excellencies' plans for their tour from Delhi to Calcutta, and, in consequence, we would like to change the date of Their Excellencies' visit to Darbhanga from November the 28th to November the 30th.

I hope therefore that you will find this date equally convenient.

(b) In order to fit in with the timings for the rest of the tour, it will not be possible to arrive at Darbhanga until 8-30 A.M. on November, the 30th, and the departure must be arranged at 10-45 P.M.

(c) In view of (b) above, may I make the following suggestions in regard to the programme :-

(i) On arrival at Darbhanga, Their Excellencies think that it will be best to go straight from the railway station to visit the Raj area and Improvement Trust area, instead of going first to Nargona.

(ii) To go from the Improvement Trust area to the New Hospital site where Her Excellency will lay the foundation stone.

(iii) To Complete (1) and (2) above so as to arrive at Nargona by 12 Noon. This will give their excellencies about one hour to change before luncheon at Nargona.

(iv) In view of the earlier departure from Darbhanga, might I suggest that you eliminate the Reception after the Banquet, and arrange for those people who would have been invited to the Reception to come to the Garden Party instead, where they will have an opportunity of meeting their Excellencies.

(v) By eliminating the Reception, I would suggest that the Fireworks be timed for 9:30 P.M., so that there will be ample time for their excellencies to return to the railway station in order to leave at 10:45 P.M.

I enclose an amended programme on the above lines with which I hope you will agree, and I shall be only too glad to discuss further details with you when you come to Simla next month.

Yours Sincerely

Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwar Singh, K.C.I.E., of Darbhanga.
The Palace Darbhanga (Bihar).

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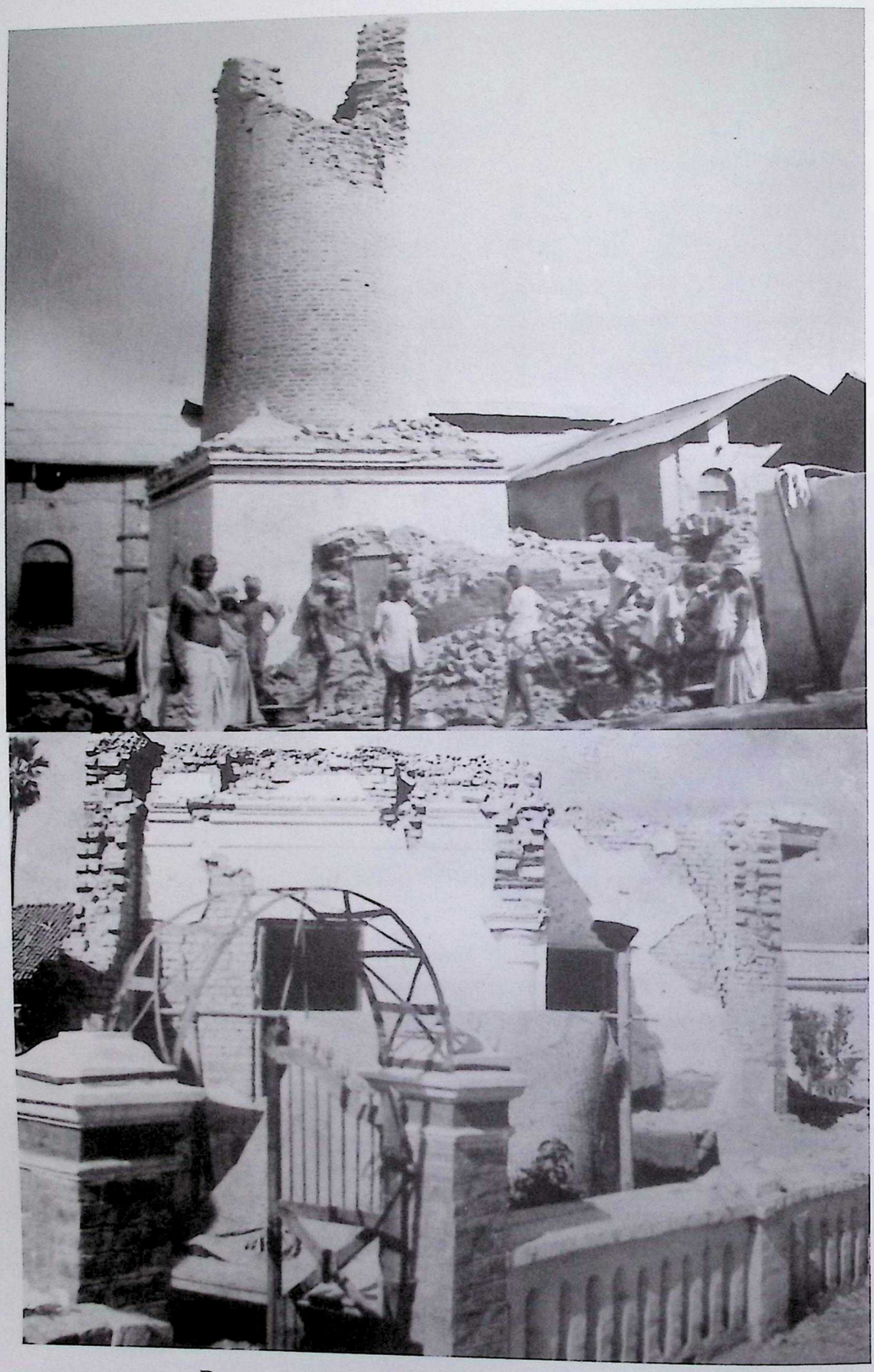

Destruction caused by earthquake in Darbhanga, 1934

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Anandbagh Palace, Darbhanga

Nargaona Palace, Darbhanga

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Darbhanga House, 1 Middleton Street, Calcutta

Darbhanga House, 7 Man Singh Road, New DElhi

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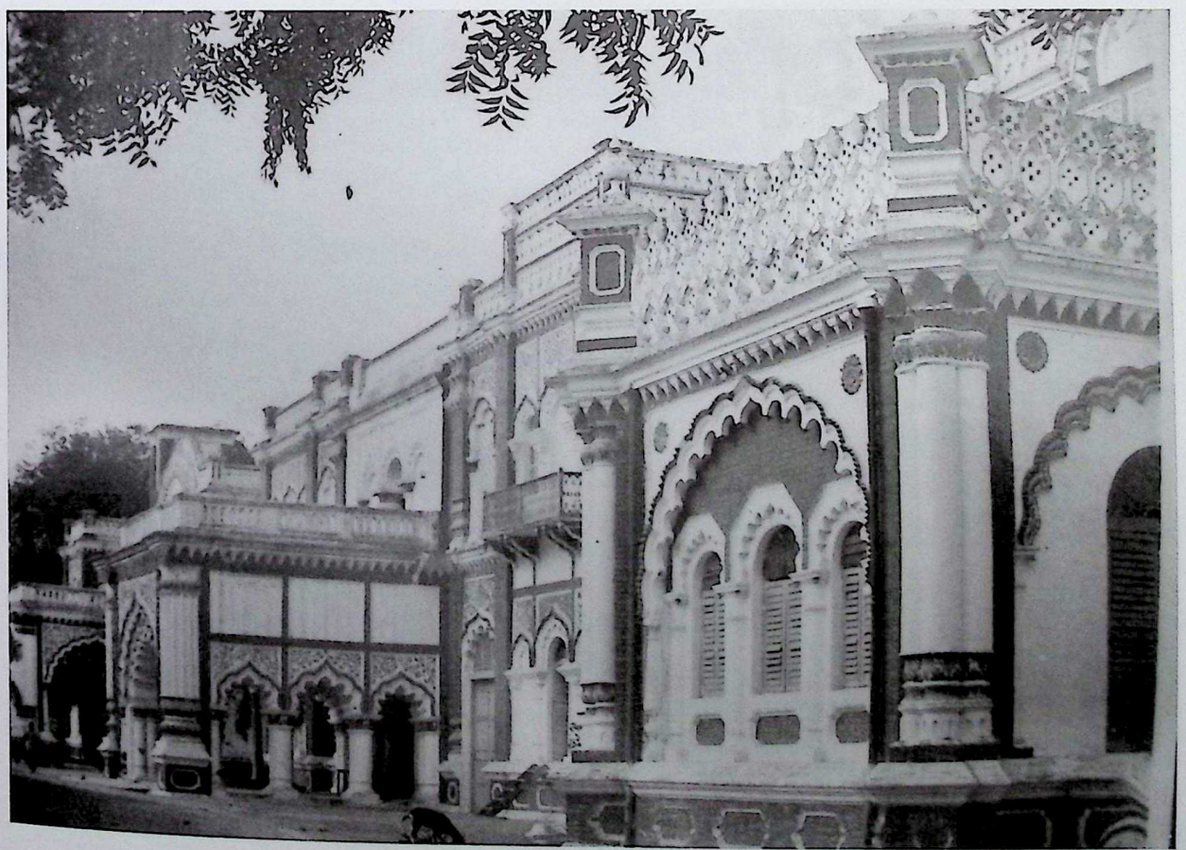
Lady Rutherford Child Welfare Centre, Darbhanga



Darbhanga House, Patna

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PROGRAMME FOR THE VISIT OF THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE VICEROY AND THE COUNTESS OF WILLINGDON AT DARBHANGA

November 1935
Saturday, 30th

8:30 A.M.	Arrive Darbhanga (Private Arrival)
	Leave Railway Station to Visit the Raj Area and Improvement Trust area.
	Then proceed to visit New Hospital site where Her Excellency to lay the foundation stone.
12 Noon	Arrive Nargona.
1.00 P.M.	Lunch at Nargona.
4.00 P.M.	Garden Party at Lakshmishwara Vilas Palace, grounds
7.45 P.M.	Banquet at Lakshmishwara Vilas Palaces.
9.30 P.M.	Fireworks.
10.45 P.M.	Leave Darbhanga (Private Departure)

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HIS HIGHNESS'S PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH AT THE SANSKRIT REORGANIZATION COMMITTEE HELD AT DARBHANGA *ON THE 15TH AND 16TH NOVEMBER, 1939.*

Gentlemen,

Before we begin our labours I must thank you for affording me the pleasure of welcoming you here and request you to forgive me for any inconvenience that might have been caused to you on account of any inadvertence on my part or on the part of anyone working on my behalf. It was indeed very good of the Government to have agreed to my proposal to hold the meetings of the Committee in Darbhanga and I am beholden to them for showing me this consideration.

My next duty as the Chairman of this Committee is to thank the Government of Bihar for setting up this Committee with the object of examining the question of the reorganisation of Sanskrit studies for which we still have so much sacred love and veneration.

In the Resolution of the Education Department of the Government of Bihar dated the 18th September, 1939, you must have noticed that the circumstances that led to the appointment of this Committee are not quite happy. It is clear from it that there is a certain amount of dissatisfaction among the public of this province with respect to the management of the affairs of the Bihar Sanskrit Association by the Office of its Secretary and the system of the education imparted in the Sanskrit institutions. This Committee of experts has been asked to go into these questions and suggest such reforms as it considers necessary.

When I read this notification I felt that the allegation and the terms of reference were of general character and I wrote to Dr. Syed Mahmud who was till recently the Minister in charge of the Education Department of this province requesting him to help us by making terms of reference more precise and asking the Education Department to prepare a note setting forth the criticisms that the Government have received with regard to the present state of Sanskrit education so that we might focus our attention to the specific complaints made by the public. I have not yet received any reply to that letter of mine from the Government.

We have therefore to follow the instructions mentioned in the Resolution by which this Committee has been appointed.

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As I see it, we should, to begin with, discuss and determine the procedure that the Committee should follow in carrying out the investigation and in doing so we should not only consider how best we can obtain the materials in the hands of the Government but also the method of ascertaining the views of those educationists and public men who are interested in this matter and are in a position to give us helpful suggestions. The latter we have to do on a fairly large scale. Perhaps it will be advisable at this stage to frame an exhaustive questionnaire, circulate it as widely as possible, and on the receipt of replies examine such persons as witnesses as may be considered likely to throw light on the different aspects of the questions we have to examine.

We must however always remember that whereas we have to do our work thoroughly we must do it as quickly as possible. Whatever hardship and inconvenience we might suffer in transacting the business of this Committee they will be amply recompensed if we shall lay the foundation of revitalising the education of Sanskrit which embodies our culture and tradition as well as the history of our greatness.

Let us now proceed with the business. I invite you, gentlemen, to discuss the problems generally.

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HIS HIGHNESS'S SPEECH DELIVERED AT THE DARBHANGA DISTRICT WAR COMMITTEE MEETING ON 20TH JULY, 1941.

Khan Bhadur and Gentlemen,

I thank you, most sincerely, for giving me this opportunity of addressing the people of my home district on a subject which is at present engaging the most serious attention of the whole world.

Day in and day out, reports of events that pour from every quarter of the globe, indicate how rudely the civilised world has been shaken by the grim struggle which started in Europe nearly two years ago, between those who wish to inflict a mortal blow on the fundamentals of civilised life and those who want to resist them. We have seen how the Nazi horde has subjugated practically the whole of Europe either by intimidation or by wanton aggression and is now trying to over-run Russia. So far, the situation is not quite clear. But this much is almost certain that the defeat of Russia will bring it to the door of India and threaten the independence of the Muslim powers in the Middle East. The recent developments in Japan are looked upon with grave concern and no one can say whether the war will spread to the eastern part of the world as well. Up till now it is Britain which has successfully resisted Hitler's attempt to crush her out of existence. The inspiring spirit which she has displayed and the strength she has shown during this fateful period deserves the admiration of the entire world. In her Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Mr. Winston Churchill, she has a leader who can be relied upon to take her from glory to glory; and I am sure that with the cooperation of the peoples of her gigantic Empire she will ultimately fulfil her mission of extricating the world from dictatorial clutches.

You know that ever since the declaration of this war the Princes and people of India have been responding generously to the calls made on them. The Indian soldiers serving abroad have earned universal tribute for their valour and raised their country in the estimation of the world.

I believe that there is no section of our countrymen, not even those who for one reason or the other are non-co-operating with war efforts, which either apprehends or desires the defeat of the British arms. The measure of support India is giving to war efforts has received warm appreciation from His Majesty the King-Emperor, as well as those who are at the head of affairs. But with the possibility of the war coming nearer to our country from the West, North, and East, our effort should be multiplied and we should in every way strengthen the hands of those who are to-day responsible for warding off the dangers of invasion. The resources of the entire British Empire have to some extent been and are being organised to create a formidable defence and it is just the time

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for India to do all she is capable of doing to meke herself immune from outside aggression and internal disorder.

We may have our differences with Government and indeed we have. But in the face of the present danger we should rise to the occasion and defer their consideration till the victory is won. Let us struggle hard to meet the pressing and foremost demand of the moment, namely, the defence of our country.

Gentlemen, I hope you will all ponder over the gravity of the situation and come forward to vindicate the honour of your King and country with men, money and material.

I pray that with this war unbridled autocracy in the garb of democracy may come to an end and real democracy under which there are opportunities for every individual irrespective of caste, community or political thought or economic divisions to live its own life unmolested, may be established all the world over.

European Guest House

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HIS HIGHNESS'S SPEECH DELIVERED AT PATNA, NATIONAL WAR FRONT, ON 20TH MARCH, 1942.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The proposition that has been so ably placed before us, has my fullest support.

We have now come within the danger zone. No one can say when the enemies will launch their attack on our country. It may now be a matter of months. What account shall we give of ourselves to the world at large is the question that we - each one of us - should ask ourselves.

Only a few days ago, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has told us about our defence preparations. But the present War has taught us that the most successful way of defending our home and hearth is to cultivate mass determination to ward off the aggressors. The fighting forces are, of course doing their duty. But that is not enough; shall we not do ours? Shall we not support them? Are we here so base as to be unmindful of their sacrifices for the vindication of the honour of our King and Country? I believe not. It is up to us to supplement their efforts by doing all we can to make the resistance successful. Of what avail will be the loss of pecious lives of our gallant countrymen, who are so heroically fighting, if by reason of failure on our part to do our share of work, we allow the invading forces to have an easy time? The examples of Russia and China are before us. Like ours, these countries are vast in area and population. You know, that is like an advantage and a disadvantage. But the secret of their success in withstanding the onslaught of barbarous hordes, armed to the teeeth and fully equipped with all the might and potentialities for destruction that modern science has placed in their hands, lies in the common will of the civilian population to drive them away.

I do not minimise the force of the argument that unless our position in our country is the same as the position of the people in free countries, we cannot have the same spirit as the people of those countries have. I hope the powers that be have taken a note of this factor and will remove the impediments that lie in the way of the cultivation of the mass determination, as soon as practicable, bring about a change in ideals and outlook, ensure to this country uninterrupted progress according to its own traditions and notions that have stood the test of time, and completely disarm the wily propagandists of the Axis powers. But here again, I would like to tell my countrymen that until and unless they rise equal to the occasion and keep their own differences aside, the purpose will not be served. It is essential that at this hour of gravest peril we should concentrate on one and one

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thing alone, viz. to save ourselves from the clutches of the Axis adventurers. France was a free country - a big power. But she could not, chiefly on account of her experiments in unknown doctrines, retain her position. The history of our own country reveals that she lost her independence by reasons of experiments with unknown forces and not subordinating to the higher objective what I may call domestic differences. Let us take lessons from these historical facts and, for the sake of all that we hold sacred and dear, stand as one man to thwart aggression. Nothing else can enable us either to earn or to retain freedom.

There is, I wish to warn you, no dirth of fifth columnists, masquerading in one garb or the other, who are ever willing either to fish in troubled waters or to sell their country for petty gains to themselves, It is our paramount duty that we should spot out the Quislings and give them the kick they deserve. Let our thought, word and deed be energetically directed towards the end we have in view.

This war has been rightly characterised as a war of nerves. The patriotic attitude of people's mind is a very important factor. We have to develop it ourselves. As a man thinks, he gets. Even wishful thinking is good, provided the thought impels him to action. In the same way, even though a man be working for victory it is harmful if he has a defeatist mentality. Thought invariably governs action and itself becomes stronger by repetition. And it is not only the thought or action of the fighting forces that matters; but the thought and action of the civilian population are equally, if not more, important. His Excellency the Viceroy has rightly said :- "To-day the battle front is of great depth and each one of us can be a soldier too." It is required of us that we should keep our hearts sound, our determination strong and our faith unshaken. It is also required of us that we should counteract all actions of a fool or a knave that may tend to produce defeatism and inculcate on those around us the same spirit which we are required to have ourselves. In fact, the whole thing has been put in a nutshell in the following words of His Excellency the Viceroy :- "Stand steady, encourage the brave, strengthen the faint-hearted, rebuke the babbler and root out the hidden traitor".

We are going to be put to a very severe test. An external aggression is not infrequently attended by internal commotion and the only way of keeping them off is to cultivate the mentality and spirit which I have described above. We should prepare ourselves for the worst suffering, for the greatest sacrifice, and for the hardest labour. This war is going to demonstrate whether we still have the capacity to be free. If at a moment like this all those noble instincts and ideals that are characteristically Indians are brought back into play and all those factors that disintegrated this great country of ours are located and properly put under shackles, no power on earth can prevent us from coming to occupy an honourable place among the nations of the world. We have not lost our souls even after thousand years of bondage and submission to various experiments carried at different

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times by different rulers and I am sure that if we only try to be true to our heritage, come what may, India will emerge out of this conflict with her proud head - even though smeared with blood, yet - unbowed. Judge for yourselves! "Will you be better placed than what you are to-day under the heels of Japan, Germany or Italy?" Imagine the inherent strength you will have cultivated as a member of the National War Front! It is not absurd to suppose that such a strength will be of no avail to you in shaping the destiny of your own country?

I will not say more; I commend the proposition to your acceptance and trust that we will all take up our right earnest and inflict a crushing blow to those whose unbounded lust for world domination has brought about present grim situation. Remember what Krishna said to Aryuna in the battle field of Kurukshetra "Fight ; because, if you die, your abode will be in heavens, and if you live, you will enjoy the fruits of earth."

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Patna
6.8.42

The Private Secretary
Maharaja, Darbhanga.

Sir,

We the students of the Patna University are very proud to express our sense of gratitude to you for the most excellent decision you have come to in suspending the publication of your Indian Nation. It should have been done much earlier. Anyway your paper's popularity has been saved and the students highly appreciate it. We would like to assure you the great effect it has produced both in the public and government circles though in different ways. In this hour of our national struggle the decision of the Maharaja could never have been otherwise in spite of your wretched editor who was doing his utmost to condemn the esteemed paper in the public eyes by making it the government's mouth-piece. We would further request you to see that we the Patna people get a better editor next time. But that should not be before the British call a halt to their brutality and barbarity. That, it has got to be or we shall boycott your paper and ask the paper sellers not to sell the Indian Nation. Lastly, the Indian Nation in past ..... by the Bengalees who must be purged out of the press at once.

Once again, believe us, the popularity of the Maharaja and of the paper has gone up, up and up.

Patna Students.

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VICE-CHANCELLOR

Patna University
Patna

the 12th October, 1942

Vice-Chancellor

My dear Ganganandji,

I have not met you for quite a long time. I suspect even you come to Patna you do not care either to inform me of your arrival, or to come around to see me. I am informed that you were here lately in connection with something for "Grow More Food". Very probably you did not either informed me of your arrival or came around to see me, because you evidently entertained an apprehension that I would consume all by myself all the food that you would grow. I shall be away from Patna to Lahore from the 20th October to the 8th November. But I hope you may be able to come here next month in connection with the meetings of the Universitiy bodies, when I look forward with great pleasure to meet you.

You will believe me that on an average quite one hour of my daily work is concerned in discussing with people of various kinds, the fortunes of the Indian Nation. They all want to know from me (a) whether the paper is going to be revived, (b) if so, when (c) with what staff, and (d) everything else connected with it. For obvious reason, I am not in a position to give them any information, as I know nothing about the matter. But if there be no objection to your telling me anything about them, I shall be grateful to you by your kindly writing to me, in some detail, in reply to this letter, so that I may know how the matter stands. I can tell you this much that the stoppage of the paper, and that too at a time when the Searchlight also has had to close down, is a very great loss to the newspaper-reading public in the province, and I earnestly hope you may be able to represent to the Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Bahadur the grievances of the whole of the reading section of the public of Bihar. Hoping to hear from you in reply, preferably by return post.

I remain
with my blessings and good wishes
Ever yours affectionately,

Sachchidanand Sinha

S. Sinha

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26 October, 1942

My dear Sinha Saheb,

I crave your forgiveness for the delay I have made in answering your very kind and affectionate letter of the 12th instant. That is due to my being ill after my last visit to Patna and my preoccupations during the pujas.

Your suspicion that I try to avoid seeing you when I go to Patna is entirely incorrect. I am always looking forward to the pleasure of meeting you as I invariably return from your place intellectually richer. I have never the slightest apprehension of losing my food at your place because apart from the fact whether I am able to grow or not, my experience has been that you always have plenty of the best variety of it. I very much wished to look you up when I had last been to Patna but much to my regret meetings and visitors stood in my way. I am waiting now for the next occasion to meet you.

The Indian Nation will be certainly revived but the Maharajadhiraja alone can say when. He has not yet given us any idea of it. I have represented your grievance to him. We wish to take advantage of this period of suspension in affecting improvements in every direction as far as possible.

I hope you are in the best of your health and spirits.
With hearty Puja Greetings and Good-wishes.
I remain
Yours affectionately,

Sd/-
G. Sinha

Lt.Col.Dr.S.Sinha
D.Litt, Bar-at-Law, M.L.A.
Vice-Chancellor, Patna University

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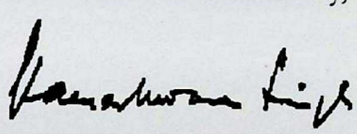
Patna,

29th March, 1943

My dear Dr. Sinha,

I have decided to revive the Indian Nation but without editorials for the time being. At the same time I feel that there should be some one in Patna who should be responsible that even without editorials the paper should be conducted on lines consistent with the present political requirement and limitations. I shall not only feel satisfied but would feel free from any anxiety if you agree to undertake this responsibility on my behalf. As usual not being able to take any denial from you and in view of the indulgence I have become used to, I am accordingly sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Rao for his information and guidance. I am instructing him to take your advice and carry it out in all the serious matters arising in the discharge of his duty as the Editor of the paper.

With love,
Yours affectionately,



Lt. Col. Dr. Sachchidanand Sinha, Bar at law,
Patna

Copy forwarded to Mr. C.V.H. Rao,
Editor Indian Nation for Information and guidance.

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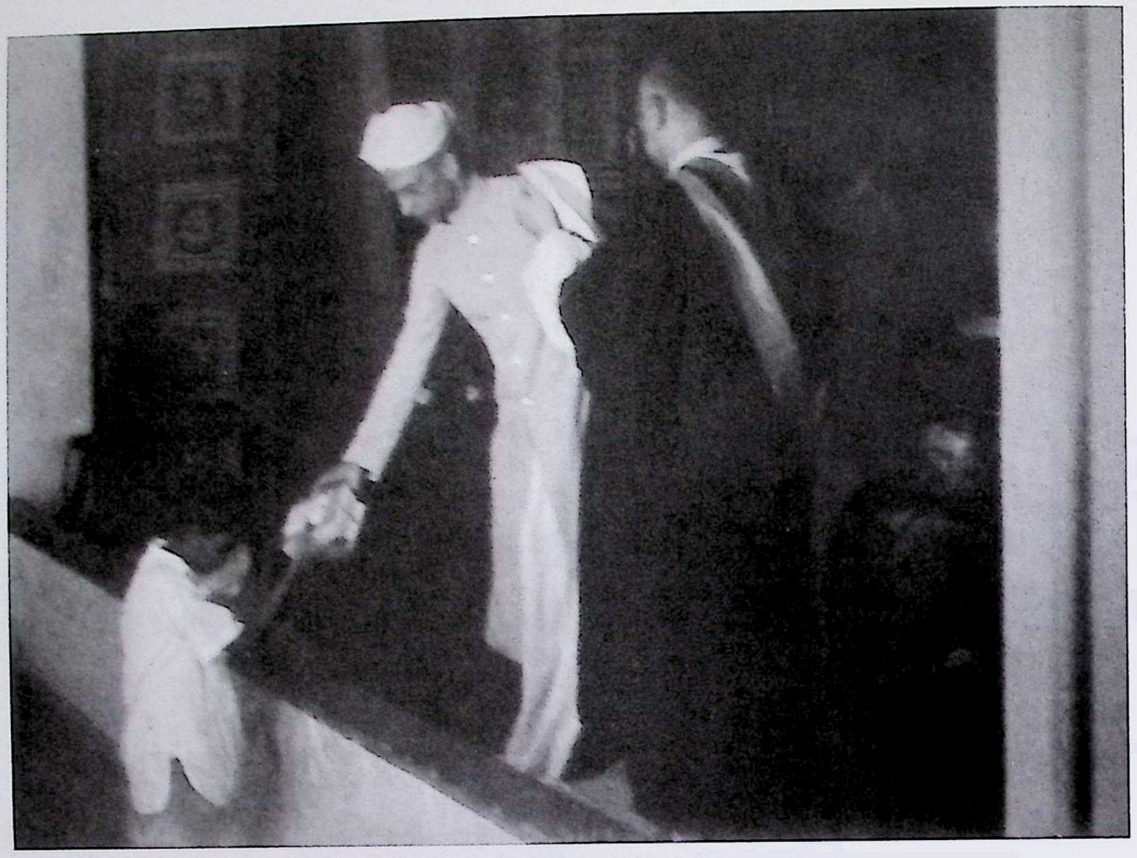

Dr. Radhakrishnan distributing prize amongst the students of Raj High School, Darbhanga

A visit to the Technical Institute at Darbhanga

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Going for a game of Polo at Darbhanga

Trophies distributed after the Polo Match, Darbhanga

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OPENING ADDRESS OF THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF DARBHANGA AT THE ORIENTAL CONFERENCE, HELD AT BENARES ON THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1943.

Dr. Radhakrishnan, Malaviyaji, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the absence of His Highness the Chancellor, who to his great regret could not be present here today, it is my proud privilege to welcome this gathering of distinguished orientalists to this ancient seat of learning, culture and religion. I need not say that he is deeply interested in the success of this Conference and we all have his good wishes.

We may recount very many such gatherings held here in the past at different ages and under different conditions. We may feast our vision with the panorama of thousands of years during which sages, saints, philosophers, poets, preachers and patriots have come here on pilgrimage and surcharged the atmosphere of this holy place with thought-currents that stirred and elevated the soul of mankind throughout the length and breadth of *Aryavarta*. But they do not to any degree detract the importance and appropriateness of this Conference.

We are passing through a time when materialism has run riot. Civilization based on it is letting loose the spirit of barbarism. Devastation and ruin have shaken the present day world to its very foundation. It is tottering. It is bound to crumble to dust. Cry has been raised for the reconstruction of the world - for the new world order. We too have heard the cry. Should we then sit still for we have been in political bondage for such a long time, or should we come forward and lend our hand in shaping its destiny by transmitting to it the message left to us by our forefathers which is good for all times and every country and under every condition - the message which is based on spiritualistic ideals and is the outcome of ripe and varied experience - the message which still lies hidden in our daily life and conduct? If we adopt the first alternative, we will be embarking on a dangerous voyage in which there will be immense possibility of ship-wreck. Such a course of action will be unworthy of our heritage and tradition and indicate that we have lost faith in them. It is only by adopting the second alternative that we can discharge our duties and obligation to the human race. I firmly believe that Hinduism - I use this word in a wide sense - has still enough vitality to reassert itself. But how can we discover the message except by such methods as scholars assembled here have employed viz., by finding and joining together the missing links between the past and the present? It is by the fruits of your labours that we will know our strength and weakness, the causes and periods of our glory and downfall, and the results of experiments carried during so many thousand of years. I earnestly hope that nothing will deter you from this noble work and succeeding generations of scholars will continue the search after truth with zeal and sincerity.

I feel that we still have a distinctive place in the world not by reason of material possessions but by reason of retaining our cultural heritage and philosophy of life. It is

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true that the impact of the west has hideously distorted the structure of our life to a great extent and it has been exposed to a good deal of ridicule. But till now the foundation on which it was built remains undisturbed. That place of distinction can be ours only if we realise that many things today have lost their original meaning for us and we have been enslaved by forms and slogans. We have to build afresh on the old foundation which has stood the test of time viz., the domination of spirit over matter, subordination of earthly possessions to the desire for immortality. I should not, however, be understood to mean that there is no place for earthly things in our scheme of life. As a firm believer in *Varnasrama Dharama* I do not minimise the importance of *Kama* (desire) or *Artha* (wealth). In fact, as Sir Radhakrishnan has put it : 'man is a bundle of desires and the economic need of the community should be satisfied if creative impulses of men are to be liberated from his cultural life. *Dharma* (duty) should always control *Kama* (desire) and the ultimate object viz., *Moksha* (liberation) which constitutes immortality should never be lost sight of. Human nature varies and our forefathers taking that into account have laid down how each man can attain full self expression. We have indeed been tought to co-operate with the forces of nature and not flout them.'

Your studies and researches are bringing to light not only the accounts of events but also the developments of the cardinal principles governing our life and philosophy and all of us profit by them. But there seems to be some misconception with regard to the ability of scholars trained to carry on their researches according to the traditional method prevalent in this country, in the minds of scholars following western methods and vice-versa. This question has been authoritatively dealt with in the address of the late lamented Mahamahopadhyaya Dr. Sir Ganganatha Jha who presided over the third session of this Conference held in Madras. I trust, I shall not be accused of partiality to one who was a member of my family when I also express my opnion that it is wrong to suppose that Pandits or Maulvis trained in traditional methods are wanting in what has been called 'critical faculty'. I do not, however, deny that researches according to the western methods have a value. But the gap between these two sections have to be filled up and misconceptions have to be removed. In my opinion the labours of both of these types of scholars should supplement and complement each other and the one should take advantage of the other without prejudice of any kind. After all, you are seekers of truth. You cannot with impunity either prejudge or misjudge things; for then, you will vitiate the very purpose of your labours.

Rich and varied are the fields you have to traverse. The progress of your activities must continue because there is still much to be done. I have already told you what I consider to be the peculiar significance of your labours. It now remains for us to invoke the blessings of *Sri Viswanatha* and pray that like the stream of holy *Ganga* that flows below, the flow of the stream of our thoughts may not lose its continuity and by fertilising this country it may mingle itself in the vast ocean of the thoughts of humanity.

With this Prayer, I declare the Conference open.

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PATNA UNIVERSITY
Patna the 21st oct., 1944

Vice-Chancellor

VICE-CHANCELLOR

My dear Maharajadhiraja,

I received yesterday your exceedingly kind and very affectionate letter from Calcutta, dated the 18th and immediately wired to you as follows.

"PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL YOUR EXTRENELY KIND LETTER OF EIGHTEENTH WHICH JUST RECEIVED STOP HOPE TO REPLY TOMORROW AFTER EXAMINING PROGRAMME OF UNIVERSITY FUNCTIONS STOP RENEWED THANKS AND GOOD WISHES"

I am now giving you the information you require. But before I do so I would like to say that I have been very deeply touched by your kindness to, and affection for, me, which you have constantly displayed both publicly and privately these many years. Your letter has touched so tender a chord in my heart that I have recalled in my mind many loving incidents in the course of our relations. The one which I paticularly recall is that you laid a wager of ten rupees by asserting that on my retirement from office as a member of Government in 1926, I would be the recipient of knighthood. You lost that wager eighteen years back, but you have not cared to pay me the amount of rupees ten which has now accumulated with interest and compound interest to some figure in billions and trillions! You desire to make up for it now by giving me a party, and I most thankfully accept it, and cry quits for the large amount you owe me which you will never be able to pay!

We have not met for quite a long time, and I am looking forward to having a long and quiet chat with you during your visit to Patna in the University week. That is why I am delighted to learn that you have decided to spend a few days with us here during the celebrations of the Silver Jubilee of the University. I am enclosing herewith a nominally tentative but practically complete, programme of the various functions connected with the University. You will notice from the note made on it by the Deputy Registrar of the University (in red ink) that the afternoon of the 30th November is free, after the special convocation would be over. The special convocation is expected to finish by 5 P.M. The University Banquet is fixed for the same evening from 8/30 P.M. If you decide to give an At-Home on the 30th you should fix it up at your house from 5 P.M. onwards, and it would break up at about 6/30 or 7 P.M. leaving enough time to the guests to get ready for the Banquet. If, on the other hand, you require longer time for your function, then it can

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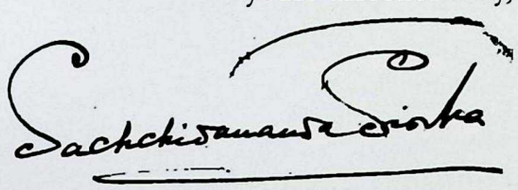
be held on the evening of the 1st december from 8 P.M. onwards. you will kindly decide the matter, and then write to me, and send the letter (if you so desire) through John; also giving some detailed information as to who are to be invited to the function. I may add that the Vice-Chancellors, or the representatives of all Indian Universities and other similar institutions are expected to be here on the occasion. They should, in my opinion, be invited, besides the local officials and non-officials. I shall gladly do what I can to meet with your wishes in the matter. If you want any additional information I shall be glad to send you on hearing from you in reply to this letter. Trusting all well,

I remain,
with my blessings and good wishes,
yours affectionately,



Sachchidananda Sinha

The Hon'ble Lt.-Col. Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwar Singh Bahadur,
The Palace, Darbhanga.

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BIOGRAPHICAL ENCYCLOPEADIA OF THE WORLD
An Authentic Record of Notable Living Men and Women
in Every Country Throughout the World
compiled and published by
INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN BIOGRAPHY
(Incorporated 1934)
206 Broadway New York 7, N. Y.

Office of the Editor
January 24, 1944.

The Hon. Colonel Sir Kameshwara Singh,
Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga,
The Palace,
Darbhanga, India.

Dear Sir Kameshwara :

I am enolosing a FINAL PROOF of your biography, as prepared for inclusion in the (1944) Third Edition of the BIOGRAPHICAL ENCYCLOPEADIA OF THE WORLD, which is now being prepared for the press.

329

Please return this sketch to me with any further changes or corrections you desire to make.

Should you like to own a copy of the forthcoming volume, which will contain your biography, a reservation card in enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

C. K. Nichols

C. K. Nichols
Associate Editor.
For 3rd EDITION

THIS PROOF MUST BE RETURNED
TO
BIOGRAPHICAL ENCYCLOPEADIA OF THE WORLD
COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY
INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN BIOGRAPHY
(INCORPORATED 1934)

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296 Broadway
New York 7, N. Y.

[Please go over your sketch carefully. This book is designed for use by Public Libraries, Newspapers, Colleges and Universities throughout the world. Since it is a permanent record, It is important that this material be correct.]

SINGH, The Hon, colonel Sir KAMESHWARA, K.C.I.E., LL.D.,D. Litt, Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga was born at Darbhanga, India, November 28, 1907. Son of Hon. Maharajadhiraja Sir Rameshwara Singh Bahadur, G.C I.E., K.B.E., D.Lit., K.I.H (gold medalist) of Darbhanga and the Junior Maharanidhirani Sahiba (now called the junior Rajmata Sahiba). The founder of his family was Mahamahopadhayaya Mahesh Thakur, who received the grant of Sircar Tirhoot from the Moghul emperor, Akbar the Great, in the 16th Century in recognition of his learning. His Highness was educated at the Palace. He has been twice married. In 1929 his highness was elected Life President of Bihar Landholders' Association and of Maithila Mahasabha, President of Bengal Landholders' Association, and All India Landholders' Association, and General President of Sri Bharat Dharma Mahamandal. He was delegate to the 1st Indian Round Table Conference in 1930 and to the 2nd Conference in 1931. He was elected President of Bihar United Party in 1932. He was nominated as a Member of the Council of State twice - for the first time in 1933, and for the second time in 1934. In 1936 he was elected as a member of the Ccouncil of State at the head of the polls from Bihar. His Highness is a life Fellow of Patna University, a life member of the Court of the Hindu University and of Allahabad University and Pro-Chancellor of Benares Hindu University. In 1937 he was President of the Oudh Taluqdars' Conference, Lucknow. He is President of the George V Memorial fund and the Bihar Sanskrit Association. He was appointed as the Honorary Colonel of the 11/19th Hyderabad Regiment I.T.F in 1940. His Highness has vast business connections and has nominated his employees to the Board of Directors of his Various companies. He owns three sugar mills in Bihar as well as extensive land properties. He is a life member of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and England, and is life member and Vice-patron of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal. He is a Life Fellow of the Royal society of Arts, Manufacture and Commerce. His social affiliations include the Marlboraugh club London, Chelmsford Club, Delhi, Simla; Calcutta Club, Calcutta South Club and Royal Calcutta Turf Club. His hobbies are polo, tennis and motoring.

Address : The Palace, Darbhanga, India

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DARBHANGA HOUSE
New Delhi

The 6th Sept. 1947

To
G.P.Danby, Esqr.
Chief Manager
Raj Darbhanga
Darbhanga

My dear Mr. Danby,

I tried to contact you on phone yesterday but could not succeed owing to the general disorder in Delhi telephone system. His Highness has gone to Simla with a small staff to fetch the Maharaniadhirani Sahiba. The Rajkumar is here. Although both Delhi and Simla are comparatively safe it is risky to undertake journey by train. You must have noticed in the papers that only one train is now running between Delhi and Kalka and there has been disturbances at Khurja. His Highness wanted me to ask you on phone to send Lt. Mal Singh with six armed guards and a good supply of ammunitions to Simla so that the party may be safely escorted to Darbhanga. As that could not be..... I am sending this message to you by means of ..... letter and sending it through one of Ojhaji's ..... who is going back to Darbhanga. In order..... may get the information without undue delay ..... to the Manager, 'Indian Nation, Patna to ..... message to you by phone and instructing the bearer who is going via train to deliver the letter to the Manager, as soon as he reaches there. I hope you will get the message tomorrow evening although the letter cannot reach you before day after tomorrow.

Hope you are doing well.
with kind regards,
Yours sincerely,

Sd/-
G. Sinha

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HARAHI HOUSE
RAJ DARBHANGA
DARBHANGA O.T.RLY

July 26, 1950.

PRIVATE

My dear Maharaja,

I am typing this as I am sure you sometimes find my writing hard to read?

We got back safely on Saturday evening and found Darbhanga dry. Rain is very badly required for paddy planting and the Bhadai crop is estimated at 8 as. due to heavy and continuous rain during June and early July.

Prices of everything are higher now than ever before and still rising. Rice is now about 32-33/- rupees a maund, wheat is also not far behind the rice. All other food stuffs more or less keep pace in comparison with rice. I believe in North Bihar that one of the principal reasons for high prices of not only food stuffs but everything else including building materials etc., etc., is due to the lack of transport. Our O.T.Railway, partly due to Mokameh Ghat, is just about as bad as it can be. It is said that the Railway are short of flats for transport across the river, probably they are short of everything - but one cannot think why a sufficient number of flats have not been provided. Roads have in most parts become impassable even for bullockcarts and then many bridges have collapsed or are collapsing. Little or nothing can be moved from one part to another. Added to which are the Govt. restrictions of movements which makes it more difficult. I should say by the end of this monsoon transport by road will have disappeared.

When I was in Calcutta recently I spoke to Your Highness regarding the urgency of increasing the special pay which we aree giving to our employees. I cannot but press this matter as I know it to be now of the greatest urgency and to my way of thinking we have no alternative but to give more special pay and particularly to the class of employees which I referred to in my note dated the 25th June. On a rough calculation it will cost Your Highness anything from sixty thousand to a lac of rupees a year, but such increments will be given over a period of say 2 or 3 months and not immediately. Against this, I would suggest that drastic retrenchments be made starting from the top and working down to the lowest. To make these drastic retrenchments we must start on surplus Officers, it is very difficult for me to further retrench suordinate staffs without touching these surplus Officers. Again I would suggest that a cut be made on the salaries of Officers drawing over 1000/- a month and this would include myself. I am ready to co-operate. While I sit here and have all I require for my daily food etc., my conscience makes me

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uncomfortable to see those who are working for us and are directly in touch with me, having to live with one insufficient meal a day and that of inferior quality. This increase in special pay which I am pressing for would affect perhaps 75% of the subordinate staff and the amounts to individuals would vary from Rs.3/- to Rs.10/- a month. I dislike having to press for it knowing fully our present day finances, but I have no other alternative, holding the position that I do. A condition might be made that when prices again come down corresponding cuts will be made but I know that this might not work and in any case would be difficukt. I do not think I need say any more on the subject as Your Highness realises the position.

In my note dated the 25th of June I referred to finance. If we do not get a refund of the income tax deposited with Government amounting to approximately Rs.25,00,000/- which is now due to us, then further finance has to be arranged. If on the other hand we get this 25,00,000/- then it will not be necessary to make special arrangements. The big item which we will have to face in a month or two is the Agricultural Income Tax for 1356 F. Again, in my note of the 25th June, I made a reference to poor collections as compared to last year and gave some indications as to the reasons. During the last 2 or 3 days I have seen several Circle Managers and there is no doubt that the poor Bhadai crop as also poor prospects for the paddy crop are taking effect. In Purnea it appears there is almost a famine and Government have started relief.

Everything is alright here - The last few days have been so hot.

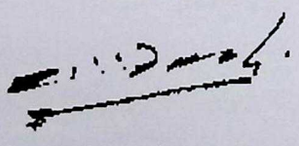
Capt. Jha is not at all well and his condition appears to be deteriorating.

When it is possible I would like to have Jaddu and Subhnarain Babu both - I have to do something about collections - also T.O. Six of my officers are absenti !

Babuji got some wise !

I hope all are fine !

Yours sincerely,



Gerald

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF DARBHANGA XIV ALL INDIA ORIENTAL CONFERENCE DARBHANGA (MITHILA) 1948

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Owing to the unavoidable absence of Dr. Rajendra Prasad and the Hon'ble Maulana Abul Kalam Azad who had been requested to inaugurate the Conference, it has fallen on my lot to open it and it gives me immense pleasure to welcome you all to Mithila - the ancient land of Videhas, the home of traditions and Sanskrit learning and seat of a distinctive culture which in the past exerted great influence over its neighbouring territories. I know that the present day Mithila has not much attraction for you. You have been attracted by its association with Janaka, Yajnavalkya, Vidyapati and numerous other scholars who have illuminated the pages of history with their imperishable contributions to the thought and culture of different ages. Now you can derive consolation only from the remnants of the work they did during their life time.

I am grateful to Dr. Amaranatha Jha, the Chairman of the Reception Committee and all those who have worked with him to make the Conference a success, for the valuable help I have received from them. In particular, I should like to express my thankfulness to our Local Secretary, Mahamahopadhyaya Dr. Umesh Mishra, for the keen interest he has taken in the affairs connected with this session. It is largely due to his indefatigable energy and industry that we have been able to do what we have done. I am also thankful to the President of the Conference, Dr. Majumdar for his constant guidance.

I must also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to His Excellency Shri Madhava Srihari Aney, the Governor of Bihar, for gracing the Conference with his presence and consenting to address it on a subject of deep historical interest to us.

Although this is the Fourteenth Session of this Conference, this is the first session which is being held in Free India and I am happy to think that this momentous session is going to be held at my birth place. Since the time of Janaka it is customary in this part of the country to hold congregations of learned scholars to reach authoritative conclusions with regard to debatable matters and also to give a hall-mark of eminence to such scholars as stood the most critical tests. Therefore, it is in the fitness of things that a Conference like this, which in the present day world brings within its fold, scholars connected with Oriental studies throughout this country, should hold its session here at a time when the Indian nation is struggling for its regeneration to compete with other free nations of the world and establish its superiority by following the teachings of those who, in the past, had made this country great. It is indeed extremely unfortunate that at such a time we lost

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Mahatma Gandhi, the 'Father of the Nation', under whose inspiration and guidance freedom was attained and also our revered Malaviyaji who was the embodiment of what is best in our religion and culture. Need for these great men of our times was, I dare say, never greater.

We have just seen the end of a deadly conflict which has maimed and mutilated the entire human race both physically and morally. We find that even when the wounds inflicted by the last war are bleeding, even when desolation and sense of frustration stalk the world, no attempt is seriously made to prevent the recurrence of such bloody conflict in future. In fact, it appears that the war is still continuing in a different shape and very soon there may be another world conflagration causing unprecedented suffering to mankind. Lust of power and greed of domination are egging on human ingenuity to create powerful engines of destruction for, if I may say so, self-annihilation. In a world like this India has got a definite role to play.

The questions before her are :- (1) whether she will be an active participator in that grim tragedy, (2) whether she will step aside and be a silent spectator of that impending calamity, or (3) will she make her contribution to the world thought in the light of the message left to her by her saints and seers.

To answer the first two questions in the affirmative would be a direct negation of all those principles which we have been holding dear and so the third is the only alternative to answer which we should direct our energy. If we are weak we may be led by world forces to take sides, howsoever unwilling we may be to do so. It is therefore essential that we should strive to develop the strength necessary to direct the thought in the proper channel. We can reconstruct our future successfully only on the solid foundations of those principles that have been enunciated by our forefathers and have been universally recognized as sound. In that work, study of the past is bound to help us to a great extent. We will not only profit by the experiences gained from the mistakes of those who have preceeded us but also gain inspiration and guidance from the examples of those who succeeded in enhancing the glory of our motherland. Towards this end Conference of this kind can be of inestimable value. I trust that the organisors and Office bearers of this Conference will turn their attention towards stimulating the studies of subjects that may be helpful in solving our present-day problems. For example the most urgent problem that confronts us is to shape the life and character of the people in such a way that they may have the vitality to grow freely in a disciplined manner and create the human material of which any nation can be proud. Such a human material will be a tremendous creative force and enable us to realise the true significance of our ideal **सत्यं शिवं सुन्दरम्**. The solution of this problem lies hidden in the vast mass of our ancient literature and we have only to bring them to light for the benefit of our country.

I need hardly say that the interest which this Conference has created, particularly in

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the people of this part of the country, shall have a lasting effect. They will find your association during these few days so refreshing that I am sure they will cherish its memory with pride and pleasure and will be always willing to put their shoulders to the wheel in all the collective endeavours of this learned body.

The intellectual life of Mithila has been rather slow to absorb western ideas and it is considered to be conservative. But it is so much satrurated with ideas contained in Sanskrit literature on various subjects specially Darshana-Nyaya, Mimamsa, Dharma-shastra and Vyakarana that it is very sensitive to all those thought currents that have their basis in Indian civilization and culture. Thus they have especial aptitude to appreciate the noble work which this Conference is doing.

Those of you who have come from outside will, I hope, have no cause to regret your having undertaken this arduous journey to almost the foot of the Himalayas, when you have known more intimately the scholars of this region- both past and present.

I earnestly wish the Conference every success.

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Baltimore, HId

17th August 1951

Your Highness,

I am writing to you in reference to my letter of the 6th of june. Up until the present time I have not received a reply. My letter has not been returned nor I am sure it has been received by you. My request was a simple one. Only your Highness Photo to add to my collectio of the Ruling Familys of the World. I am aware that there is unrest in India at the present time. But even so it does not take two months to reply to a letter. I am also aware of the changes that have taken place in India. But I did not think that things had changed so much that a Primer of India could not afford a stamp for a letter. I am happy that my request so simple. I am glad I did not ask Your Highness for money to come to India for a rest. I am quite sure I would have received no answer. If things are so bad in India perhaps your Highness should come to the United States and perhaps I could get you a job with one of my friends. After all we Princes of once Ruling Familys should stick together. If I do not receive an answer to the letter I will understand about the stamp. May the almighty look down upon you with pity.

I Remain
Ever sincerely yours

Michael Ramanoff

Michael Ramanoff
Prince of Imperial Russia

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SCHLOSS MITTERSILL CLUB
SALZBURG, AUSTRIA

March, 26

Your Highness;

It was a great pleasure for my wife and myself to meet you and I was only sorry that we had to leave India the following day. But we will get in touch with you in Paris at the George V. and then also make certain that you keep your promise of spending some time at our club here in Austria during the summer.

Most of the snows has gone here and with it our favorite sport, skiing. So we will be heading for London and Paris fairly soon.

Why dont you drop us a line to the above address and let us know when you plan on arriving in Europe.

My wife joins me in sending you our regards and thanks for the very nice and amusing dinner at your house.

Yours sincerely

Alexander Hohenlohe.

Prince Alexander Hohenlohe

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ADDRESS OF WELCOME BY THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF DARBHANGA CHAIRMAN OF THE RECEPTION COMMITTEE OF THE SOUTH-EAST ASIA TEACHERS' SEMINAR HELD AT NEW DELHI ON 25TH NOVEMBER, 1951

Dr. Katju, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Reception Committee it is my proud privilege to extend to you a hearty welcome.

The world that has emerged 'out of 'the Second World War is very different to the world in which most of us were born. So, when we meet in international gatherings like this, the thoughts upper-most in our minds are that no part of mankind can live in isolation from the rest and if humanity is to survive, it is essential that each part of it should live in harmony with others. That is the basic idea with which the United Nations Organisation was created. To India this is not a new idea. Its seers have always held that it is the attribute of petty-minded people to think that this is mine and that belongs to others whereas those who are liberal and broad-minded people consider the entire world as bound by family ties.

अयं निजः परोवेति गणना लघुचेतसाम्।
उदार चरितानान्तु वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्।।

Misery and degradation have overtaken us whenever in the course of our long historical existence we have forgotten this counsel of our sages and we have become sadder but wiser. Other parts of the world have gone through the same process and now all of us, who are members of the United Nations Organization, realise the wisdom of this teaching and feel, more strongly than ever before, that the folly should not be repeated any more. It is no longer a dream, an ideal, but a practical problem which must be solved if mankind is to exist. Science has annihilated time and space. It has brought into being such engines of destruction that if fully let loose they can within a very short time bring the humanity to an end. So, if greed and competition for domination are allowed to prevail, the days of human race must be considered as numbered.

We have met here to consider some of the aspects of this important problem in our endeavour to ward off the danger that is threatening mankind. We are not daunted by the failures of the past endeavours in this direction. We have met here with faith and determination to succeed in our endavour. Our chief aim is to give the idea of the United Nations - the idea of international co-operation and mutual understanding, the shape of a people's movement, so that the human affairs through-out the world may be carried on in an organised manner and there may all round peace and progress. We are a part of the

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specialised agency of the United Nations known as U.N.E.S.C.O. and we are trying to achieve our end by developing informed and competent World Citizens. The U.N.E.S.C.O. rightly recognizes that all conflicts originate in minds of men. So, it is in the minds of men that we must build the fortress of peace, mutual understanding and desire for the good of humanity. It has also been recognized that it is the students in the secondary stage of their education that are the best medium through which we can succeed in our attempt. It is at this stage that a student's mind is the most impressionable. It is at this stage that he begins to catch new ideas and ideologies. These students of today are citizens of tomorrow. If we are able to make them think in terms of unity, brotherhood and need for the co-operation of the entire human race then only we can hope to create a world society based on peace and security and a fuller life for every human-being. It is in that view of the matter that the secondary school teachers have a special place in this Seminar.

As you, perhaps, know it has been found by experience that the consideration of the ways and means of achieving the end in Seminars like this has been very helpful. The U.N.E.S.C.O. had organised two seminars in 1947 at Sevres and in 1948 at Adelphi College, New York. These were the pioneer efforts towards understanding the problems of teaching about the United Nations. The problem that came to the forefront after these preliminary discussions, in which the teaching of international understanding in general was defined and the best methods of presenting the United Nations to the school children up to the age of 18 years was particularly studied, was its application to each region of the globe and to each country. The questions that remained to be settled were principally like these.

How were the teachers in each country to introduce into their every day teaching the nations embodying the spirit of San Fransisco Charter and the purport of the Declaration of Human Rights?

How without bringing about a revolution in school text books and teaching methods were they to teach the geography of human relations, to infuse their history-teaching with a conception which goes far beyond nationalistic ideas and to make use of the social sciences, humanities and language and science teaching?

The World Federation of the United Nations Organization (a non-Governmental Organization federating the voluntary citizens and Students' United Nations Association) took up the matter and started implementing the UNESCO programme by organising seminars from time to time in the various regions and individual countries in co-operation with non-official organizations and National United Nations Association all the world over.

During 1949 and 1950 the United Nations Associations in France, Great Britain, Cuba, Italy and Iran have in turn organized seminars in their own countries with the guidance of the World Federation of the United Nations Associations' Educational

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Commission and the financial assistance from U.N.E.S.C.O. Teachers from far and near voluntarily came to participate in these seminars for reviewing the teaching programmes and teaching methods in their countries and discussing and devising the best method by which they could disseminate information about the United Nations among the students and create in them a spirit of world-citizenship and international understanding. These seminars evoked genuine interest among various National United Nations Associations and the American and Danish United Nations Associations organised courses and regional seminars for teachers on the United Nations. The Australian Educational authorities and the Swiss National Commission for U.N.E.S.C.O. have organised similar seminars for their teachers.

These seminars reached some important conclusions such as :-

1. Each specialised branch of teaching classics, science, history, geography bears the same responsibility in regard to the teaching on the United Nations and therefore all categories of masters must be prepared for the task.

2. Teaching about the United Nations should not constitute a separate subject but should be included or rather diffused in all other branches of study and that this teaching could commence very early even in the primary schools.

3. National and provincial seminars could be repeated to have a wider appeal in the bigger regions of the world.

But it was felt that each region had its own difficulty in implementing the programme of United Nations teaching. For example, in one region people were sceptical about the future of United Nations itself, in another there was lack of material in the regional language and so on. At places people were critical of these seminars by associating it with the political side of the United Nations' activities. But these seminars were successful in removing many of the doubts and misconceptions of the people. They had a great informative value and they brought to the notice of the participants and observers the achievements of the United Nations in the fields of economic and technical co-operation.

Our seminar here is one of such regional seminars on United Nations teaching for the South-East Asia Teachers. We are grateful to the U.N.E.S.C.O. and World Federation of United Nations Association for the guidance and help we have received from them and we are very much indebted to the Indian Commission for U.N.E.S.C.O. for their valuable co-operation in arranging this gathering of distinguished teachers and educationists. We are also beholden to those who are participating in this seminar. On them depends its success.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are conscious of our short-comings but we hope that your magnanimity of heart will induce you to over-look them. On our part we can assure you

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that whatever we have not done to make your stay here more pleasant has been due not to our lack of desire but to the conditions in which we had to work.

You have important problems before you to tackle. So I should not detain you much longer. I trust that when you have finished your labours we will have the satisfaction of seeing that India's contribution to the solution of the problem has been really valuable. The idea of world-comradery, as I have said before, is not new in this country. It has been preached and practised here at different times. But at present it is latent in the hearts of the common man. The teachers and educationists are here to bring it out again. May God help them in this noble endeavour.

Maharajadhiraja with Maharaja Jaipur

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175. WARDOUR STREET, LONDON, W.I

Directors
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GERrard 7282

8th December, 1952

His Highness,
Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshware Singh, KCIE., LL.D., D.Lit.,
Darbhanga House,
New Delhi

Your Highness,

Follwing upon our last meeting in london I expect you will remember having asked me to let you know when I should next be in India and when I would be going to Jaipur, since you might come for a weekend at the same time. I have already written to His Highness the Maharaja of Jaipur and received his kind invitation to stay with him.

You will remember that I am arranging the requirements for a Flim production based on the story of drama and romance behind creation of the great Taj Mahal, and that this film will be in techni colour for exhibition in the World Markets so that it redounds to the credit of India.

This project will be carried out in conjunction with Sir Alexender Korda, one of the most prominent men in the world's film Industry.

I am due to leave London by Air India for Bombay on the 11th instant, together with captain T.A Hurney GEE., RN. who is a Personal Assistant of Sir Alexander Korda. His wife, lady Hussey is a grand - daughter of the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava who was a viceroy of India : they are both personal friends of the queen, the duke of Edinburgh and lord Mountbatten.

We shall be staying in Bombay at the Taj for some five or six days, and are then going on to Delhi, Jaipur and Agra, but the time we can spend on this first visit, unfortunately, is unavoidably very short. I do hope I may have the pleasure of being able to see you when we are in Delhi, and perhaps you would be so kind as to advise me by note to the Taj, Bombay, as to wheter this would be convenient for you. Perhaps we could then arrange to go to Jaipur together. In Delhi we are due to meet Pundit Nehru to whom Lord Mountbatten has written in regard to captain Hussey and myself on this matter.

with kind regards and best wishes,
your sincerely,
Bishu Sen
BISHU SEN

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Bengal Club
Calcutta

March 6th 1955

PRIVATE

My dear Kameshwar,

I look on for your kindness while I was in Delhi but I saw all too little of you as you had to attend many functions in the day I was there due to Sir Anthoy's visit.

I thank you also for all the nice things you said about me at dinner and after dance on the Thursday night! but you also had two "complaints" against me which I could not explain them and in the presence of your other guests. The complaints were - Why did I not stay longer in Darbhanga and Why did I not write and propose a date to visit you in Delhi when you had already asked me up and given me your promise?

My reasonings and explanations may not sound valid but I can assure you they are honest. I had misgivings and apprehensions - rightly, or wrongly, for it has to be remembered I am sensitive when you are concerned. This has been brought about by the fact that I have always considered you and Babuji the best friends I have ever had. This friendship dates back to 1923 or before. As boys you came to B..... and on some occasions stayed a night. You used to come by train to Samastipur to play polo and my car used to meet you at the station. All this I remember well, many games of polo we played together - sometimes on the same side or against each other! 1926 and 1927! Then came 1930 at home and in 1931 I joined the Raj. August 1931 I became your Chief Manager and soon after I had taken over you left for the U.K. I think it was on three occasions you went to the U.K. leaving me in charge of everything and greatly honoured I was. Now I come to the "explanations"!

During all these years knowingly I havent let you down by deed or word and you taunted me implicitly - I cannot remember ever have given you anxiety or worry due to my actions in the administration - I made it a point not to do so and get of as far as possible with everybody including Govt. officials - But Kameshwara, a Raj such as yours is a Raj and things were not always easy and I of course made many enemies - more so with Govt. officials and my own community. Still this did not worry me so long I had your approval and backing. Then last year I had a shock - First of all I should say my retirement from Raj services was my own doing (1952). I left Darbhanga in February 1951. Before I went home in 1950 I told you that as the Zamindari would sooner or later be taken over by the Govt. I would become surplus and I did not think I could pull my weight at 3000/- a month and I did not want to burden you with this expenditure - you said I was wrong but in any case you wanted me to go to Calcutta and look after your business there. Eventually I agreed but with some reluctance. However I paid my way for the 1 year 3 months I was there - Got rid of Villiers - a very dreadful show - not too badly, and

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means that about 3 lakhs of Income Tax demanded of Thaker Spink - which was proving not to be same. After that I found there was little or nothing for me to do here and asked to be allowed to retire.

The shock came when you decided to sell Purnea property - not because of your decision to sell but you did not ask me to do the negotiations - It is correct I was very interested in the property and you know all about my interests - but this did surely not mean I should let you down. I felt you had lost faith and interest in me - and I could not be trusted. I became very dejected and miserable for many months and lost all interest in everything - during this period I lost about 2 stones in weight and I thought my last friend. Then I came back to India for 2 months to see all friends and the country where I had lived to love and liked. It was because of all this I felt shy at going and staying any length of time at Darbhanga and the same at Delhi. I felt perhaps you really did not want me and ..... - as I have already said very sensitive where you are concerned - decided not to force myself on you - Perhaps, I was wrong and I am sorry but had you asked me to Darbhanga I would have made my headquarters there and returned to Delhi with you.

While I was in Darbhanga serving you I had little thought of the morrow - my work and interest in it, was everything to me. I had a position to keep up and I think I upheld that position. Now I will tell you what I am faced with, the modest home Gorse Hill will have to be sold for I cannot afford to live there - I have no will so as what we will do I cannot say yet. I hate to write this and would not do so if I did not think I have caused some consideration from you - and to help me alone. I cannot but help remind you of the many things I did apart from the general administration. I never spared myself in your interest and took many risks. In a sense the ..... Income Tax Tribunal Case - I claim to have been instrumental in winning this which was of the greatest importance. jalan's 9 lacs - Here I claim to have been the means of recovering this money - Had I not taken the action in obtaining a mortgage in Calcutta we would never have got the money. Then Bowarrah - you sold half the share and have the last hold left showing a profit of several lacs. benipar I persuaded you to have - I think the profit was something like 10 lacs and some 350 Bligno letd. .....more in terms I could give, but I think you know as much as I do! I ask you to do something for me. Sorry to write all this and I hate doing so - As a matter of fact I would not have done so had not you touched on the subject while I was in Delhi!

I am off tomorrow. Sorry to go for many ..... Can you do something for me at home? Come over this summer - The change does ... good - and I shall do something of GA. I am waiting Babuji - have final of the logs.

and so goodbye - Do come home this summer.

With kindest regards,

Yours most sincerely - and the same **Gerald Danby!**

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'सरस्वती श्रुतिमहती महीयताम्'

अखिल भारतिय संस्कृत-साहित्य-सम्मेलनस्य

चतुर्विंश महाधिवेशनस्य

स्वागताध्यक्ष

महाराजाधिराज डा॰ सर श्रीकामेश्वर सिंह महोदयानां भाषणाम्

पाटलिपूत्रे

(ज्येष्ठ कृष्ण द्वादश्यां रविवासरे, 1879 शाके)

16-5-57

श्रीः

ब्रह्माऽपि यां नौति नुतः सुराणां
यामर्चितोऽप्यर्चयतीन्दुमौलिः।
यां ध्यायति ध्यानगतोऽपि विष्णु
स्तामादिशक्ति शिरसा प्रपद्ये।।

अये संस्कृतप्रणयिनो मान्या अतिथयः,
सभाजनीयाः प्रतिनिधयः, सत्करणीयाः सज्जनाश्च !

तोव्रं तपति भीष्मेऽपि ग्रोष्मकिरणे, पाश्चात्य-वात्यया रजसाकुलितेऽपि लोकलोचने, समन्तात् सन्दग्धेऽपि सुरगवीसञ्चरण-पूत-भूतले, भाग्योदय-योगादेव संहतिरियं संस्कृतिसेविनां श्यामघनमालेव कस्य न भवति मनोमोदाय?

उचितमेव ततो यदिह नीरसाऽपि रसा समुल्लसितेव, दग्धाऽपि प्रकृतिवल्लरी पुनरुल्लसितेव, शिथिलाऽपि लोकलोचन-मयूरो सहसा नर्तितेव सम्प्रति संवृत्ताः

कविकुलगुरूः कालीदासोऽपि नूनममूदृशं प्रसगं-मंगङ्गीकृत्यैव निदाघप्रशस्तौ 'दिवसा परिणाम-रमणीयाः' इति वास्तविक्तां प्रस्तावयामास। अतः सर्वान्तः करणैः स्वागत समितिपक्षतः, बिहार-प्रान्तीय-संस्कृतानुरागिपक्षतश्च भवद्भ्यः संस्कृतोन्नयन-परेभ्यः समुपस्थितेभ्यः सदभ्यः प्रीतिप्रमुखवचनं स्वागतं सप्रमोदं वयमिह समर्पयामः।

स्थाने यस्मिन् वयमिह सम्मिलिताः भारतीय इतिहासे तदनुपमं गौरवमणिडतम्। वृहत्कथा-विदितं वर्षोपवर्ष-हर्षितं, राजशेखरकृत-काव्यमीमांसानु-सोरण पाणिनिव्याडिप्रभृति शास्त्रकार-परीक्षणे निपुणं, विशाखदत्तीय-मुद्राराक्षसरङ्गस्थलं 'बुद्धिस्तु मा गान्ममे' ति समुद्घोषयितुः साम्राज्यनिर्मातुरार्य- चाणाक्यस्य कुटीरस्थलम्, दणिडनः पदलालित्ये लालितं मगधदेशशेखरीभूतं पुष्पपुरं, विदितनीति-वर्त्मनां विषणुशर्मणां भागीरथी-तीरे पाटलिपुत्र-नामधेयम् इदमेव नगरम्।

अद्य पुनरस्यां विश्वविजयिनः अलक्षेन्द्रस्य गर्व-गिरिं रेणूकुर्वतः मौर्यचन्द्रगुप्तस्य पादचारेण गर्वितायां,

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सेनापतिना पुष्यमित्रेण अश्वमेघयज्ञ धूमिता-याम, गुप्तकुलतिलकैः समुद्रगुप्तप्रभृतिभिः प्रवर्धितायां, गुरूगोविन्दसिहप्रमुखैः धर्मप्राणेः परिपूजितायां, राष्ट्रपति राजेन्द्रप्रसादसदृश देशरत्नै र्मण्डितायां नगर्य्यां संस्कृतस्य समुन्नन्यै बद्धपरिकरान् भवतः समभ्यर्थयितु नितरां प्रसीदति मे चेतः।

न केवल पुरमेव धन्यमिदं, बिहारनाम्ना प्रथितं समस्तमिदं राज्यम् अद्य विशेषतः कृतार्थ-तामावहित। वर्त्तमान-बिहार-राज्ये दक्षिणतः मगधाभिधं तदेव जनपदं यत्र प्रथितो जरासन्धः शत्रून् जानानोऽपि प्राणौरतिथीनर्चयामास। यस्यैव एकदेशे दधीचिः निजास्थिदानेन विश्वकल्याणाय जीवनोत्सर्गव्रतदीक्षां स्वीचक्रे। नूतनस्वर्गनिर्माणे दत्तचितो विश्वमित्रः अत्रैव तपस्तेपे। अस्यैवाङ्के 'ममायतं तु पौरुषम्' इति पुरुषकारं प्रमाणयन् कर्णः कस्य न कर्णगोचरः? बौद्धधर्मचक्रप्रवर्तनया, जैनमन-स्थापनया, जनतन्त्रसञ्चालनया, पञ्चशील-प्रस्तावनया अयमेव प्रदेशः भारतीयकीर्तिपताकां विश्वमण्डले स्थापयामास। बिहाराणां प्राचुर्येण अन्वर्थनाम्नि अस्मिन्नेव बिहारे नालन्दा-विक्रम-शिलादि विश्वविद्यापीठतः दिगन्तविस्तृता भारतीय-शिक्षापद्धतिः। सुरवाणीसेवनधुरीणः!

अस्मिन्नेव राज्ये हिमवद्वनवीजितं भागी-रथीसलिलशोलितं, सदानारातरंगितमूलं कौशिकी-क्षालितकूलं पण्डितमण्डलमण्डितं मिथिलाभिधं संस्कृतविद्याकेन्द्रम्। यच्च संस्कृतगंगायाः हिमस्रोतः, दर्शननलिनानां मानससरः, साहित्यसुर-तरूणां नन्दनकाननम्, कविकोकिलानां रसालोद्यानं युगारम्भतः विदितचरम्। यच्च ब्रह्मवादिनो जनकस्य, शुक्लयजुर्वेदप्रवर्तकस्य याज्ञबलक्यस्य, न्यायसूत्रकृतो गोतमस्य, वैशेषिकदर्शन कारस्य कणादस्य, स्वतः- प्रमाणं प्रख्यापयतां कुमारिलमण्डनादीनां, नव्य-न्यायप्रवर्तिनां गंगेशवध मानोदयनाचार्यपक्षधरमहेश-प्रभृतीनां तार्किकाणां, द्वादशदर्शनकाननपञ्चाननस्य वाचस्पतिमिश्रस्य, चण्डेश्वर ज्योतिरीश्वर विद्यापति- केशव गोवर्धन गोकुलनाथ प्रमुखानां संस्कृतसाहित्ये युगप्रवर्तकानां पाण्डित्येन अद्यापि संस्कृतविदां तीर्थ स्थानम्।

ईदृशि पाण्डित्यपरम्परावाहिनि बिहारे, तत्र भवतो वर्तमानभारतविभूतिभूतान् मनोनीतान् अध्यक्षमहानुभावान्, कर्तव्यनिधीन्, प्रतिनिधीन, संस्कृतोन्नतिसज्जान् सज्जनांश्च स्वागताध्यक्षपदेन समभ्यर्थयन् नितरां कृतकृत्यतामावहामि।

विदित-वेदितव्यानां भवतां पुरतो नावश्यकता विवृतेः, यदिदं बिहारराज्यं सम्प्रति खाद्य-सकंट-सकुंलमिति। सुतरां न किञ्चिदपि सञ्चितं स्वागत-साधनं स्वयंवञ्चितैरिहत्यैः स्वागत-सदस्यैः। केवलं भागीरथीनिर्झरशीकरैः शीतलेऽस्मिन् तृणासकुंले स्थान तिथावस्याम् अतिथीन् सूनृतान्वींग्भिर-र्चयन्तो वयं न कञ्चन सकोंचमञ्चामः।

स्वायत्ततामुपगतवति राष्ट्रे नवीनं युगं प्रवर्तित-मुपलक्ष्यते। योजनात्मिकायां व्यतीतायां प्रथम-पञ्चाब्द्यां देशे चतुर्मुखी प्रवृत्तिः अर्थकमयोः पुरुषार्थयोरुपलब्धये बहुशः फलितैव। द्वितीय-पञ्चाब्द्यामपि बहुविधां योजनां सफलयितुमायासः प्रशस्यते। इदमपि नूनमसन्दिग्धं यत् चिराल्लुप्त-गुप्तां भावनामुदबोध यितुं प्रयत्नः परिलक्ष्यते। परञ्च विमृश्य चेदं चित्तमावहति खेदं, यद भारतीय संस्कृतेर्मूलनिधिः युगसञ्चित-संस्कृतविद्या-मणि-मञ्जूषा अद्यापि अनुद्घाटितैव। नावश्यकता विवरण-वर्णनायाः। चेदस्माकं देशस्य मुकुटगिरि र्हिमालयो भवेद् विध्वस्तः, सीमान्तपालाः सिन्धवश्च स्युः शुष्यमाणाः कदाचिन्न स्यात् तावती भारतस्य स्वरूपहानिः यावती संस्कृतनिधिरिक्षत-ज्ञानराशि-नाशेन। सुतरां यादृशी शिक्षा

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गोचरीभवति सम्प्रति, सा सुरगवीचारणाय नालं भवतीति सर्वैः स्वयमनुभूयते। भिक्षुकीव सुरभाषा कणद्वयदानेन सभ्मृतभिक्षापात्रेव व्यवह्रियते। नैव श्रेयः नवा प्रेयः किमपि प्रसवितु-मियं प्रभवति जीर्णतनुः सुरगवी कामधेनुः। को नाम हेतुः, यदियं कामदुघा न प्रयच्छति चिरन्तनं ज्ञानाहुति-घृतं न वा अद्यतनं विज्ञान-नवीनतम्? सुरसरस्वत्या युगप्रवृतः प्रवाहः कथमवरुद्धः? संस्कृतज्ञाः कथमद्य संस्कारहीना इव देशे अनुपयुक्ता इव प्रयुक्ताः।

स्वीकुर्मः, यदिमां समस्यां समाधातुकामाः शिक्षाविदः नवं पन्थानं निर्मातुं प्रकामोद्यमाः सन्तीति। संस्कृतशिक्षार्थिनो नवभारतनिर्माणे सर्वथा उपयोगिनो भवन्तु, इति सदबुद्ध्यैव देशे सामान्यतः, प्रदेशेऽस्मिन् विशेषतः, नव्यां भव्यां पद्धतिं प्रवर्तयितुं प्रयतन्ते तत्तत्त्वविदः। संस्कृतशिक्षार्थिनां ज्ञान-विज्ञानपरिधिः स्यादनेन व्याप्यमानः। तेऽपि भाषान्तरसेविन इव राष्ट्रस्य समुन्नयने भवेयुरग्रेसराः। शिवाः सन्तु तेषां पन्थानः। नवनीतं प्रस्तुवन्तु तेषा प्रशिक्षणमन्थानः। वयमिह सर्वात्मना उद्देशस्य साफल्यं कामयमानाःस्मः।

किन्तु नुतनपद्धतिसञ्चालनोत्साहः पुरातन-पद्धतेरुन्मूलनाय यथा न जायेत तथा सर्वदा सर्वैः सर्वात्मना सावधानै र्वर्तितव्यम्। जलखातानि भागी-रथीतस्तथैव निःसारणीयनि यथा मूलगंगाप्रवाहो न गच्छेत् शुष्कताम्। बदरी-केदार-देवमन्दिरस्य शोभायै तडित्प्रदीपमाला नूनं योजनीया किन्तु युग-ज्वलितः पावनः अखण्डघृतदीपः कदाचिदपि न निर्वापणीयः। उद्यानशोभायै नवपाटलप्रसूनानि रोपणीयानि किन्तु तुलसीमञ्जरी नैव समुच्छेअनीया।

इतिहासस्य जायतां परिचयः किन्तु पुराणस्य न भवतु अपचयः। अनुगृहींतां भौतिकं विज्ञानं किन्तु न पूनः विगृह्णीताम् आध्यात्मिकं ज्ञानम्। मनीषिणं 'कान्तं' स्मरतु किन्तु न विस्मरतु आचार्यं 'शकरंम्'। खैयामशेक्सपियर-प्रभृतीनां रचना-माचामतु किन्तु व्यास-वाल्मीकि-कालिदासदीनां कृतिततिं न थूत्करोतु कथञ्चन।

यथा संस्कृतशिक्षाप्रणाली स्वीयेव भारत-मुपासीत, प्राचीव प्राच्यसंस्कृतिमूलज्योतिराश्रयेत तथा प्रतिविध ास्यन्ति शिक्षाविदः, इति हृदा निवेदयामहे। वाढं विश्वसमावहामो यत् परवशतायुगे यानि आर्यभट्टीय-ज्योतिःशिक्षाकेन्द्रम्, कौटिल्यार्थ-शास्त्रविचार-कुटीरम्, गोतमविद्यापीठम्, उदयन-चतुःशालम्, पक्षधरतर्कपीठमेवमादीनि शिक्षायतनानि यानि निरुद्धानि तानि पुनरिप स्युः समुदघाटितानि भवतां संस्कृतविद्याप्रणयिनां शुभैः प्रयासैरिति। भूयो भूयो बाढ़मनुरुध्यन्ते भवन्तो, यद् भारतस्यचेद् भारतीयतां नेच्छन्ति द्रष्टुं विनष्टां, प्राच्य-संस्कृतेः मूलशिलां संस्कृतविद्या नोत्सहन्ते विलोकितुमुत्पाटितां, तदा संस्कृत-शिक्षणस्य पुरातन-परम्परां परिरक्षितुं भवन्तु सावहिता इति।

मन्मते नव्या पद्धति र्भवतु भव्याय मूलविद्या-द्वारोद्घाटन-द्वारैव।

तथैव प्राचीनाऽपि पाणिनीय-संस्कृत-पद्धतिः कल्पतां कल्याणाय सुबोधतया सार्वजनिक - हितप्रति - फलनद्वारैव।

नवीन-प्राचीन-प्राणाली-समन्वयेनैव वयं प्रभविष्यामः संस्कृतं संत्कृत द्रष्टुम्, इति बाढं वयं मन्महे।

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येन संस्कृतेन अद्यापि आसिन्धु-सिन्धु-पर्यन्ता आसेतुहिमाचलप्रसृता भारतीयजनता जन्मप्रभृति चरमसंस्कारावधि पारम्परिकतां निर्बहन्ति, यस्य संस्कृतस्य श्लोकेन वञ्चितरसनः न कश्चन भारतीयो निःश्वसिति, तस्य संस्कृतस्य समन्नयने यदिह भवन्तः सम्मिलिताः तदस्य नूनं शुभभविष्यजनकम् इति प्रमाणयति नश्चित्तम्।

भवतां लक्ष्यसिद्धौ पुनरियं चन्द्रगुप्तचाणक्य भूमिः शक्तिमाधत्ताम्। बुद्ध-महावीरजन्मस्थली नवालोकं प्रदत्ताम्। जनकयाज्ञवल्क्ययोस्तत्त्वचिन्तनं विवेकबुद्धि वर्धयताम्। गोतमकणदयोः प्रमाणप्रकाशिनी उदयन-वाचस्पत्योस्तत्त्वविमर्शिनी गंगेशपक्षधरयोस्तर्कवाहिनी, ज्योतिरीश्वरविद्यापत्योः प्रतिभोद्योतिनि शेमुषो भवतः प्रेरयताम्। सर्वतन्त्र-स्वतन्त्र स्वम्बच्चाझा, चुम्मेझा, चित्रधरमिश्र जयदेवमिश्र - गंगानाथझा - रामावतारशर्म-हरिहर-कृपालुद्विवेदि-प्रभृतीनां पाण्डित्य-परम्परा पुनरपि भवत्सु नवजीवनं प्रवर्तयताम्।

अन्ते प्रतिपदं सम्भाव्यमानास्त्रुटीः क्षमयितुं क्षमापरान् निवेदंयन् हृदा कामये-

'सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः।'
सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिदुःखभाग्भवेत्॥'

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PARLIAMENT AND THE PRESS BY THE MAHARAJADHIRAJA OF DARBHANGA MEMBER, RAJYA SABHA PAPER READ AT THE SEMINAR ON PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY DECEMBER, 1957

PARLIAMENT AND THE PRESS

In a democracy, Parliament is an elected body to legislate and to keep checks on Government. Parliamentary democracy is based on two major premises. First, there must be a Parliamentary majority and a Parliamentary minority. The Parliamentary majority forms the Government, and the Parliamentary minority carries on the functions of the opposition. Secondly, the Government, or to be precise, the Ministry, is responsible to Parliament. The functions of Parliament are varied. Parliament is not only to legislate and to control Government, but it is also to act as a forum for criticism and a focus of outside opinion. It is not enough to say that Parliament is merely a legislative body. The House has a minority. The minority cannot defeat the Governmental majority. The function of opposition is to criticise the Government and their measures. Its appeals are to the electorate. The Opposition utilises the forum of Parliament to condemn the Government and to create the climate of opposition in the country, so that it can win over people's support at the next election. The ruling party has to meet the criticisms, so that it can carry the support of people outside the House.

The point to be stressed is this that the proceedings of Parliament are of profound interest to the electorate outside. People are to know how their representatives are behaving, how public opinion is being reflected, and how Government are meeting the criticisms. Public opinion is the referee. That is why debates in Parliament are to be free and the publication of the proceedings of Parliament has to be fair. Here, the Press comes in. The objectives of an elected Parliament are defeated if the Press has not the right to publish its proceedings. The speeches in Parliament are not necessarily addressed to the Government; they are also meant for the electorate outside. The Opposition cannot play its role if its criticisms are shut out from the public. The Government cannot discharge their duties if their replies to the criticisms are screened from the public. Hence, in a parliamentary system, three conditions have to be fulfilled : (1) the debates in the Parliament should be free; (2) the proceedings of Parliament should be published fairly in newspapers; (3) there should be no interference with the Press in the matter of publication of fair and accurate reports of Parliamentary proceedings.

There is the doctrine of the sovereignty of the legislature. It is a valuable doctrine in

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a democracy. It can serve the interests of democracy if the Opposition is looked upon as the alternative to the Government and a focus for the discontent of people. If the Opposition gets no honoured place, the sovereignty of the legislature amounts to the sovereignty of the majority party. In the analysis of political scientists, the sovereignty of the legislature clears the deck for the sovereignty of the Executive. The Executive tends to be despotic, if there is no Opposition as the alternative to Government. Accordingly, the Press has to see that both the Government and the Opposition points of view, expressed in Parliaments, are fairly publicised. If newspapers have not the freedom to publish parliamentary proceedings fairly, the interests of parliamentary democracy suffer terribly. The ancillary implication is this that if the Press is unfair, the foundation of parliamentary democracy can be weakened, (Unfair reports are those which seek to suppress any important point of view, expressed or debated in Parliament). Thus, the Press should have the right to publish the proceedings of Parliament and the obligation to publish them fairly. The Press, as an independent fact-gathering and fact-interpreting agency, has a definite role to play in the smooth and creative functioning of parliamentary democracy in the country. The parliamentary system is unworkable if the Press does not play its part well or if the Press is not permitted to discharge its allotted functions.

The position under the Constitution of India is as follows : (A) There is freedom of speech in Parliament. (B) No member of Parliament shall be liable to any proceedings in any court in respect of anything said by him in Parliament. (C) The powers, privileges and immunities of each House of Parliament and of the members and committees of each House shall be such as may be defined by Parliament by law, and until so defined, shall be those of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom. Each House of Parliament may make rules for regulating its procedure and the conduct of business. There is freedom of speech in Parliament. But the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Chairman of Rajya Sabha are the guardians of the rights and privileges of members of Parliament. The Speaker can stop speeches on the ground of improper language or irrelevance. He can control unparliamentary language; he can stop observations which are derogatory to the House or the Chair. A member of Parliament is not liable in a court of law for libellous attacks on private persons, but the Speaker can control undue licence of speech. The freedom of speech within the walls of Parliament will not protect a member if his speech contaning defamatory or seditious matter is published. "If a member publishes his speech,his printed statement becomes a separate publication, unconnected with any proceedings in Parliament".

It is true that the publication of reports of Parliamentary proceedings is essential to the working of the Parliamentary system and to the welfare of the nation. But the newspaper report has to be fair and accurate and to be made in good faith and without malice. The Press in India has got a valuable right in the Parliamentary Proceedings (Protection of Publication) Act 1956. Under this Act, no person shall be liable to any court in respect of

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the publication in a newspaper of a substantially true report of any proceedings of either House of Parliament, unless the publication is proved to have been made with malice. The publication of any matter will not be protected if it is not for the public good. Newspapers in India have to be on guard in thr matter of publication of disallowed questions or undelivered speeches. They should not give unwarranted headings in news-columns of reports of proceedings of the legislature. The express constitutional provisions in clauses (1) and (2) of Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution of India form a complete code as regards the privilege of free speech and immunity from liability to proceedings in court for anything said in the legislature or for publication of its reports. Anything which falls outside the ambit of these provisions is liable to be dealt with by the courts in the country in accordance with the law of the land.

The Indian legislatures enjoy the powers, privileges and immunities of the House of Commons. The privileges of the House of Commons have been defined as "the sum of all peculiar rights enjoyed by each House collectively as a constituent part of the High Court of Parliament and by members of each House individually, without which they could not discharge their functions and which exceed those possessed by all other bodies or individuals". The Privy Council held that "the power is inherent in the two Houses of Parliament not as a body with legislative functions but as a descendant of the High Court of Parliament". The Indian Parliament does not derive these privileges on the analogy of the House of Commons being a constituent part of the High Court of Parliament. The Indian Parliament has to be invested with powers and privileges because of its legislative character, not because it forms the Great Inquest of the Nation like the House of Commons. In claiming the privileges and immunities of the House of Commons (conferred by Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution of India), the Indian Parliament should not forget that (1) the Indian Constitution is written, (2) the fundamental right of freedom of expression is guaranteed; and (3) the analogy of the House of Commons as a constituent part of the High Court of Parliament is not applicable to Indian conditions.

The Press Commission of India (1954) doubted the wisdom of the extension of the powers, privileges and the immunities enjoyed by the House of Commons to the Indian Parliament, and itmade the following significant observations :

"In India, with its written constitution and fundamental rights of freedom of expression guaranteed by the constitution, it may not be wholly appropriate to adopt bodily the basic concepts of the privileges of the House of Commons as they developed in England, and greater caution is, therefore, necessary in adopting them even though permitted by the Constitution, and in applying them consistently with the Indian Constitution and Indian conditions. There is nothing sacrosanct about the procedure of the House of Commons, and it is not imperative that the House of Commons practice should be followed in every detail".

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According to the Press Commission, "a conflict may arise in the exercise of a fundamental right under Article 19(1) on the one hand and the exercise by the Legislature of the Powers, Privileges and Immunities of the House of Commons conferred upon them by Articles 105 and 194 of the Constitution on the other". The House of Commons has the power to institute inquiries and to order the attendance of witnesses and in case of disobedience bring them in custody to the Bar for purpose of examination. In a charge of contempt and breach of privilege, if there is a wilful disobedience of the order for the persons charged to attend and answer it, the House of Commons has the power to cause the person charged to be taken in custody and to be brought to the Bar to answer the charge. And the House is the proper judge when these powers or either of them are to be exercised. But the Supreme Court of India has held in the case of the "Blitz" that an arrest executed in pursuance of the order of the U.P. Legislature is subject to the Fundamental Right embodied in Article 22(2) which requires that an arrested person shall be produced before a Magistrate within 24 hours and no further detention is possible without the authority of a Magistrate. Thus, the House of Commons power to arrest cannot be claimed in India contrary to the provision of Article 22 of the Constitution. Indian newspapers have got the statutory protection if the reports are published correctly and faithfully and in public interests. The point arises if it is a healthy usage for the Press to publish any part of the proceedings which offends against the law of the land. It is helpful for parliamentary government if newspapers are fully protected when they publish parliamentary proceedings. It is difficult to ignore the contention that should the Speaker permit turbulent speeches or defamatory observations in the House, there should be no ban on newspapers in publishing them correctly, particularly when such publication is called for in the interests of the public. Newspapers are, however, not free to publish any part of the proceedings which by order of the presiding officer is expunged. They cannot also report the proceedings of the Sub-committees of the House until those come up before the House. Resolutions, questions and motions cannot be published before they are admitted by the Chair or are brought before the House.

Besides the publication of the proceedings of Parliament, the Press has other handicaps too on the issue of contempt of the legislature. According to Erakine May, " any act of omission which obstructs or impedes either House of Parliament in the performance of its functions or which obstructs or impedes any member or officer of such House in the discharge of his duty, or which has a tendency, directly or indirectly, to produce such results may be treated as a contempt, even though there is no precedent for the offence".

The relation between parliamentary privilege and the right of the Press to criticise the actions of people's representatives in Parliament is somewhat obscure. It is accepted that "nothing ought to be done which is calculated to put a member in such fear of

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consequences if he speaks or acts in a particular way that he will refrain from speaking or acting in that way". The basic proposition is this that it is the duty of Parliament to intervene in the case of attacks which may tend to undermine public confidence in and support of the institution of Parliament. But the law of parliamentary privilege should not be administered in a way which would fetter or discourage the free expression of opinion or criticism.

The Press Commission (1954) found on a review of a few cases of breaches of Parliamentary Privileges in India that our legislatures were "oversensitive to even honest criticisms". It is not healthy if and when our legislatures claim excessive immunity from criticisms in Press or public. The following significant observations of the Press Commission ar to be noted :

"It behoves our legislature not to resort lightly to contempt proceedings. The Press, as a whole, is anxious to maintain and enhance the dignity and prestige of our courts and legislatures and recognises that within the precincts of the Assembly hall the presiding officer's ruling is supreme and the freedom of members absolute. It is, therefore, all the more necessary that legislatures should respect the freedom of expression where it is exercised by the Press within the limits permitted by law, without imposing additional restrictions in the form of breach of privileges unless such restrictions are absolutely necessary to enable them to perform their undoubtedly responsible duties. The fact that there is no legal remedy against at least some of punishments imposed by the legislature should make them all the more careful in exercising their powers, privileges and immunities".

The moot point is if an alleged breach of privilege tends to obstruct the functioning of the House. The following principles are to be accepted : (1) the scope of parliamentary privilege ought not, in the public interest, to be extended; (2) the over-sensitiveness of the legislatures to honest criticisms should not be encouraged; (3) it is not consistent with the dignity of the House to resort to contempt proceedings lightly. It is necessary to establish the usage that parliamentary investigation in respect contempts of Parliament will be conducted only when there are grave attacks undermining the very institution of Parliament.

The Press carries tremendous risks in the case of adverse comments on the conduct of a Parliamentarian in the House and also on the decisions of the Committee of Privileges. There is a school of thought which advocates that such alleged breaches should be assessed by courts in accordance with judicial standards. In law, Parliament is not a court. But in matters of parliamentary privileges, it exercise the functions of a judicial nature. Articles 122 and 212 expressly prohibit the jurisdiction of the courts in respect of the exercise of powers vested in any officer or member of the legislature under the Constitution for regulating procedure or conduct of business or for maintaining order in the House.

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Parliament must have the inherent right to conduct its affairs without any interference from an outside body. But penal proceedings for breach of privileges are often taken, even though the provocation is not a serious one. On a narrow view, every defamatory statement or prejudiced expression of opinion on the conduct of a parliamentarian in the House may constitute a contempt of Parliament. The Committee of Privileges of the House of Commons in the Daily Mail case in April 1948 stated the following priciples : (1) Penal proceedings for breach of privileges should not be taken in the case of every defamatory statement; (2) the process of Parliamentary investigation should not be used in a way which would give importance to irresponsible statements. Contempts of Parliament vary in their nature and in their gravity. And contempt proceedings should be resorted to "in extreme cases only".

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MAHARAJ KUMAR
RAJ KISHORE NATH SHAH DEO

TRETHERNE LODGE
RANCHI, E.Rly
CHOTA NAGPUR,
BIHAR

23rd July, 1959

My Dear Maharajadhiraja Bahadur,

I am writing to you after a very long time for which, I am sure, you will very kindly pardon me. You will be glad to know that my daughter having graduated herself from the local Women's College has been married recently to Kumar Suresh Singh, I.A.S. an agnate of the Maharaja of Gidhaur. He has been posted as the Asstt. Collector of Darbhanga. He is given a quarters which is shared by another officer and therefore, for want of suitable accommodation he is unable to take his wife there. He is to continue as Asstt. Collector of Darbhanga till the end of November this year after which he will be transferred to one of the Districts in Chotanagpur Division.

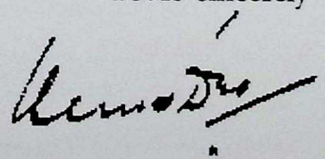
May I request you to be kind enough to allow him to occupy one of your officer's quarters having 2-3 bed rooms for the period i.e. till November. My son-in-law is willing to pay the rent for the quarters if available. I hope to be excused for this undue advantage, I am taking of your kindness which is received by our family from the House of Darbhanga always.

A line in reply may please be ordered to be sent at the earliest convenient date.

Trusting this will find you in the enjoyment of best of health and spirit.

with most pranamas

I remain
Yours sincerely



Hon'ble Maharajadhiraj
Sir Kameshwar Singh, K.C.I.E. of Darbhanga,
Darbhanga.

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To
The Chief of Protocol
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

Sir

I beg to state that a souvenir brochure entitled "MITHILA IN INDIA" has been published recently showing Mithila's Oriental culture.

The brochure has been especially published to mark the occasion of the visit of the two Russian Leaders, Mr. N.A.Bulganin and Mr. N.S.Khrushchev. I would like to present it to these distinguished visitors together with the book on the celebrated 15th century poet Vidyapati.

A sample copy (ordinary bound) is sent herewith for your kind perusal. Leather bound albums in leather-cum-silk caskets will be presented to the leaders.

I shall be grateful if you will be good enough to fix about 15 minutes for the presentation to be made to Messers. Bulganin and Khrushchev by Dr. Kameshwar Singh, M.P., Maharajadhiraja Darbhanga.

I am writing this letter to you at the suggestion of Dr. S.Radhakrishnan, Vice President. I shall be grateful for an early reply.

I remain Sir,

Yours faithfully,

Note : Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Vice President has kindly consented to give these brochures to Mr. N.A.Bulganin and Mr. N.S.Khrushchev on behalf of Maharajadhiraja Darbhanga.

Now for other members of the Russian Party 12 copies are sent urgently through Jung for presenting to them.

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THE PALACE
JAIPUR
RAJASTHAN

6th April, 1965

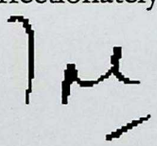
My dear Bhabhi,

Please forgive me for not answering your letter earlier, but I have been busy with Prince Philip's visit. We had very good polo and shooting and you will be glad to hear that His Royal Highness enjoyed himself.

I am off to England now for the summer and look forward to some more polo at Windsor.

I cherish very happy memories of yours and dear Dada's kindness and you are greatly missed in Delhi. If you are planning to visit north, I hope, you will come and stay with us in Jaipur.

With much love,
Yours affectionately,



Jai

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EXTRACTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE RAJYA SABHA HELD ON THE 8TH NOVEMBER, 1962.

OBITUARY REFERENCE

Mr. CHAIRMAN: Before we proceed to the next item on the Order Paper, I have a painful duty to perform – I refer to the passing away of Shri Kameshwara Singh of Darbhanga.

Shri Kameshwara Singh of Darbhanga, who was a sitting Member of this House, passed away on the 1st of October, 1962. He was an experienced Parliamentarian, having started his career as a legislator in 1933. He was a Member of this House since its inception in 1952. His interest in education and his philanthropy are well known. He was Pro-Chancellor of the Banaras Hindu University from 1938 to 1960, and of the Shri Kameshwara Singh Sanskrit Vishva-Vidyalaya, Darbhanga, for life. He was life member of the Universities of Banaras, Allahabad, Patna and Bihar. He was kindly, unostentatious and highly respected by all who knew him. He died at the age of 55. We deeply mourn his death.

I would request the Members to rise in their seats and observe silence for one minute as a mark of respect to the memory of Shri Kameshwara Singh.

(Hon. Members then stood in silence for one minute.)

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राष्ट्र की अपूरणीय क्षति

स्वर्गीय महाराजाधिराजको भावभीनीश्रद्धांजलियांअर्पित

कईसंस्थाओंद्वाराशोकसभाओंका आयोजन

Dr. Radhakrishnan Mourn Maharajadhiraj's Death

(From Our Staff Correspondent)

CONDOLENCE messages

Vidhan Parishad Adjourn As Mark Of Respect

(By Our Staff Reporter)

PATNA, Oct. 1: Glowing tributes were paid to th service, sacrifice, large-heartedness and nobility Maharajadhiraj Dr. Kameshwar Singh of Darbhang in the State Vidhan Parishad today

आर्यावर्त

The Aryavarta, Hindi Daily

दरभंगेके महाराजाधिराज डाक्टर कामेश्वर सिंहका स्वर्गवास

सारे देशके लिए अपूरणीय क्षति

विहार विधान परिषदके सदस्योंकी श्रद्धांजलियां

विभिन्ननेताओंकेशोकोद्‌गार

LATEST MORNING EDITION

The Indian Nation

An Independent Nationalist Daily

Air Surcharge: Three-Naye Paise for Calcutta, Delhi, Kathmandu and Gauhati

VOL. XXXII—NO. 229. PATNA, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1962. ASHWIN SHUKLA 4, SHAKE 1884. REGD. NO. P—399. PRICE:—FOURTEEN NAYE PAISE

Maharajadhiraj Passes Away

Sudden Death Due To Heart Attack: Bihar Shocked

Many Burst Into Tears At Cremation Ground

(By Our Staff Reporter)

PATNA, October 1:

"The Indian Nation" regrets to announce the death of the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga, Dr. Sir Kameshwara Singh, in his Nargouna Palace, Darbhanga at 8-36 this morning.

The Maharajadhiraj, who was 55, died of heart attack. He was cremated ... at the site ... ghat on the ... Kameshwari Pyre.

THE SAD NEWS OF HIS DEATH THIS MORNING STUNNED DARBHANGA AND THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE RUSHED TO THE PALACE TO HAVE THE LAST GLIMPSE OF

PRASAD MUCH GRIEVED

Chief Minister Shocked

(By Our Staff Reporter)

PATNA, Oct. 1:

मिथिला सूनी हो गई

महाराजाधिराजके अचानक निधनसे सारा देशशोकाकुल

समवेदना-सन्देशोंका तांता

(कार्यालय संवाददाता द्वारा)

दरभंगा, ५ अक्तूबर। दरभंगके महाराजाधिराज डाक्टर ...

महाराजाधिराजके निधनसे सारे राष्ट्रको अपूरणीय क्षति

विभिन्ननेताओंकेशोकसंदेश

शोकसभाओंमेंमृदवंगतआत्माकोश्रद्धांजलि

(कार्यालय संवाददाता द्वारा)

प्रस्ताव पारित कर दिवंगत आत्मा की शांतिके लिए प्रार्थना की गयी। घरोंपर झंडे झुकाये गये और शोकसभाओंका आयोजन किया गया।

शोकाकुल बगहिया नगर (शोकाकुल बगहिया द्वारा)।

MAHARAJADHIRAJ'S DEATH MOURNED

(Continued From Page 1)

my deepest sympathy ... of my oldest friend Maha ... dhiraj. Great loss to Bihar ... country poorer by his ... th. Accept sympathy and ... olence"

... Biren Mukherjee, Chair- ... n, Indian Iron Steel Com- ... y Ltd. ... ely ... lear ... ead ... use ... ghat ... later ... ...

... visited the Nargouna Pala- ... and offered his heartfelt ... olence to both Maharaja ... Bhumi Saheban.

A Life Dedicated to Service

देशका एकमहान परोपकारी पुरुष उठ गया

महाराजाधिराजके निधन पर नेताओंके शोकोद्‌गार

राष्ट्रपति डाक्टर राधाकृष्णन, राज्यपाल श्री अयंगार आदिके संवेदना-सन्देश

(कार्यालय संवाददाता द्वारा)

दरभंगके महाराजाधिराज डाक्टर सर कामेश्वर ... सबेरे ... विजलीकी भांति सर्वत्र फैल ... हजारों, पुराना ... विधान परिषदके अध्यक्ष श्री राजेश्वर मिश्रने विधान परिषदकी

सीतामढ़ीमें नेपालीछात्र संघका वार्षिकोत्सव

(एक संवाददाता द्वारा)

सीतामढ़ी, २ अक्तूबर।

मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा महाराजाधिराजकीचितापरमाल्यार्पण

नरगौना जाकर शोकसमवेदना प्रदर्शन

(कार्यालय संवाददाता द्वारा)

दरभंगा, २ अक्तूबर। बिहारके मुख्यमंत्री श्री विनोदानन्द झा आज प्रातः यहां पहुंचे और माधवेश्वर जाकर स्वर्गीय महाराजाधिराजकी चितापर राज्यपाल श्री अयंगार, बिहार सरकार तथा अपनी ओरसे मालाएं अर्पित कीं।

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Statesman, New Delhi,
Oct.2, 1962

MAHARAJADHIRAJ OF DARBHANGA DEAD

Patna, October 1 - Maharajadhiraj Kameshwar Singh, Member of Parliament died of a heart attack at his Nargaona Palace in Darbhanga this morning, according a report received here. He was 55 and is survived by his two widows and three nephews.

Head of the Maithil Brahmins, known for their Sanskrit learning, the Maharajadhiraj was himself a reputed Sanskrit scholar. He gave away very recently his ancestral Lakshmishwar Palace together with its library to form a part of the Darbhanga Sanskrit University.

In a condolence message, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said : "Much grieved by the news of Maharajadhiraj Kameshwar Singh's death. Heavy loss to a large circle of friends and public life. My sincere condolences." - (PTI)

* * *

Hindustan Times, New Delhi, October 2, 1962

BIHAR MP DIES

Patna, Oct.1 (PTI) - Mr. Kameshwar Singh, Member of Parliament, died of heart attack at his Nargaona Palace in Darbhanga, according to a report received here. Mr. Singh was 55.

* * *

Deeply grieved to learn of premature death of Maharajadhiraj Kameshwar Singh. Bihar has lost a great philanthropist. Kindly convey my heart-felt condolence to Maharani Sahiba and to his family members and place a wreath on my behalf on his funeral pyre.

...A.S.Ayyangar,
The Governor of Bihar
message sent through the D.M. of Darbhanga

Statesman, October 1, 1962

MAHARAJADHIRAJ OF DARBHANGA DEAD

Patna, Oct.1 - Mr. Kameshwar Singh, MP, Maharaja of Darbhanga, died at Nargaona Palace in Darbhanga this morning following a heart attack, according to a report received here, says PTI. He was 55.

Mr. Kameshwar Singh was a noted Sanskrit scholar. He was the Chairman of the Newspapers and Publications Limited, publishers of the Indian Nation, the Aryabarta and Mithila Mihir, a Maithili weekly.

He is survived by his two wives. Dr. Rajendra Prasad said in a message that he was grieved by the news of the Maharaja's death.

* * *

Deeply distressed to hear of sudden passing away of the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga. He and his family were great friends of the Banaras Hindu University. My deepest sympathy to members of his family.

...Dr. Radhakrishnan,
The President of India

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Hindustan Standard, New Delhi, October 2, 1962

MR. KAMESHWAR SINGH DEAD. MAHARAJADHIRAJ OF DARBHANGA

Patna, Oct.1 - Mr. Kameshwar Singh, Member of Parliament, died of heart attack at his Nargaona Palace in Darbhanga this morning, according to a report received here, says PTI.

Mr. Kameshwar Singh, who was 55, is survived by his two widows and three nephews.

Head of the Maithil Brahmins, known for their Sanskrit learning, Mr. Kameshwar Singh was himself a reputed Sanskrit scholar. He gave away very recently his ancestral Lakshmishwar Palace together with its library, to form a part of the Darbhanga Sanskrit University.

One of the enlightened landlords of India, Mr. Kameshwar Singh was the Chairman of the Newspapers and Publications Limited, publishers of the widely circulated Patna dailies, the Indian Nation and the Aryabarta and the Maithili weekly "Mithila Mihir".

In a condolence message, Dr. Rajendra Prasad said : "Much grieved by the news of Maharajadhiraj Kameshwar Singh's death. Heavy loss to a large circle of friends and public life. My sincere condolences."

The Bihar Legislative Council adjourned today as a mark of respect after adopting a condolence resolution.

* * *

I am stunned to hear the news of the sad and sudden demise of Maharajdhiraj Kameshwar Singh Bahadur of Darbhanga. An illustrious son of Mithila who sincerely served India has passed away. The country has become poorer by the loss of a great humanitarian and renowned patron of learning. He was a worthy representative of the tradition and culture of his great House.

He will always live in the memory of those who had come in contact with him. Personally I have lost an intimate friend and benefactor whom I held in great esteem and affection. May his soul rest in peace and may his bereaved family have the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

... Sri Kumar Ganganand Sinha, M.L.C

Pt. Binodanand Jha
Chief Minister of Bihar

Pt. Binodanand Jha, who arrived here this morning placed three wreaths - one on behalf of the Governor, another on behalf of the State Government and the third one on his own behalf - at the place where the Maharajadhiraj was cremated in Madhaveshwar Sthan - The Raj Family cremation ground.

Bihar's Chief Minister, Pt. Jha personally conveyed his condolence to the two Maharani Sahibas at the Nargaona Palace and to Kumar Shri Jiveshwar Singh at the Bela Palace.

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Amrit Bazar Patrika, New Delhi, October 2, 1962

MAHARAJADHIRAJ OF DARBHANGA

CONTRIBUTION TO WAR EFFORT

Patna, Oct.2 - Builder of modern Darbhanga. Hony. Col. the Honourable Dr. Sir Kameshwara Singh, KCIE, Ll.D., D.Litt., Maharajadhiraja of Darbhanga was born on November 28, 1907, and educated privately at home under the supervision of the late Miss Lilian Edgar. He succeeded his father, Maharajadhiraja Sir Rameshwara Singh Bahadur on July 14, 1927.

The Maharajadhiraja, who was keenly interested in problems concerning landholders and Indian political developments, went to London in 1930 and 1931 as a delegate to the two sessions of the Indian Round Table Conference. He was twice nominated a member of the Council of State and was elected to the same House in 1937.

He was a member both of the Constituent Assembly and the Provisional Parliament. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in 1952 and re-elected in April, 1960.

He was the head of the Maithila Brahmins in India and was connected with a number of public institutions in the country. He was the President of the All India Landholders' Federation, of the Bihar United Party, and of the Bengal Landholders' Association, Life President of the Maithila Mahasabha and General President of the Sri Bharat Dharma Mahamandal.

He was also associated with many educational bodies. He was twice elected Pro-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University, of which he was Vice-patron. He was life member of the courts of the Allahabad and Banaras Hindu Universities and of the Empire Parliamentary Association, Vice Patron of the Bihar and Orissa Research Society and the Academy of Fine Arts, India, and member of the East India Association of the Royal Empire Society, and the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts.

He was nominated three times as President of the Bihar Sanskrit Association and served as President of the Bihar Sanskrit Reorganisation Committee. Banaras Hindu University conferred on him the D.Litt. degree in 1937. and Allahabad University the degree of Ll.D. He was a fellow of Calcutta University

He was Vice-President of the Bihar Provincial War Board. President of the King George V Anti-Tuberculosis Association, Bihar, patron of the Bihar Flying Club, and President of the British Indian Association (1941). He was appointed a member of the National Defence Council in 1941.

WAR EFFORT

Immediately on the outbreak of World War II the Majharajadhiraja pledged his unqualified support tothe war effort, and made contributions to various funds connected with the war.

Besides the sum of Rs.1,00,000 which he donated to the Viceroy's War Purpose Fund soon after the outbreak of war, he presented a dozen ambulences to the King Emperor on the occasion of his official birthday in 1940 at a cost of Rs.50,000; donated Rs.10,000 for the construction of an institute for the officers of a British regiment at Ranchi; Rs.4,000 for the Red

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Cross and St. John Fund and Rs.1,000 for the St. Dunstan's Fund; Rs.5,000 each for amenities for Hindu and Sikh soldiers serving overseas on the occasion of the Dussehra festival and King George's Fund for Sailors.

The Maharajadhiraja's other contributions to the war effort included the presentation of a publicity van to the Darbhanga War Board and donation of funds for the purchase of three fighter planes.

He also placed a sum of £ 15,000 at the disposal of the Queen in the name of the late Maharani Adhirani Kameshwar Priya Sahiba.

The Maharajadhiraja was created a KCIE in 1932; and was appointed honorary colonel of the 11th Battalion of the 19th Hyderabad Regiment in 1940, and honorary colonel of the Bihar Regiment in 1941.

He was responsible for a number of reforms in his state.

Darbhanga is an ancient principality and the premier raj in Bihar, covering an area of 2,500 square miles. It is more or less identical with the ancient Mithila.

* * *

In the death of Maharajadhiraj Kameshwar Singh of Darbhanga, Bihar has lost one of her greatest sons. He was a very good friend and above all a man who kept his word of honour. I remember that in October 1950 when Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru visited Patna, he called all the big landlords of the state including Maharajadhiraj and appealed to them to give up their zamindari. The Maharajadhiraj promised to do so and since then he never made any attempts to save his zamindari by going either to the High Court or the Supreme Court. In fact the Maharajadhiraj forshook his zamindari as a beautiful bird casts off its feather. I met him after his zamindari had been taken over and still he was so good and friendly to me.

...K.B.Sahay,
Minister for Planning and Cooperation, Bihar

The news of the death of Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga came as a shock to me. He was a noble soul. He was associated with a number of public works of social good and he took a lot of interest in developmental activities. The state has really lost a good friend. May his soul rest in peace.

...D.N. Sinha,
Minister for Irrigation and Power, Bihar

I am shocked to hear of the sudden demise of the Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga today. The family of Maharajadhiraj was well known for their philanthropy and benevolence. A large number of institutions in India owe their origin to the generous donations of the Darbhanga family.

The Maharaja was a noble soul and a great nationalist. He was a great man and Bihar is poorer today by his death.

...M.P. Sinha,
Revenue Minister, Bihar

Shocked to learn about sudden and untimely death of Maharajadhiraj. It is great personal loss to me. Bihar loses great son and benefactor. May God give you strength to bear this great bereavement.

...Baliram Bhagat,
Union Deputy Minister

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CONDOLENCE

I received the news of the death of Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga with great shock and regret. The Maharajadhiraj was an emblem of all that is good and noble. His death has removed from our midst a great man known for his unfailing courtsey, culture, philanthropy and his ever-readiness to every good cause. I sympathise with the members of the bereaved family and pray to God that the soul of Maharajadhiraj may rest in peace.

...S.N.Sinha
Education Minister, Bihar

* * *

I am deeply shocked to hear of the sudden death of our Maharajadhiraj. Words fail. He was a great philanthropist, very humane and a sincere friend of the needy and the poor. He helped several social, cultural and educational institutions of the country. His name will always remain immortal. May God grant peace to his soul.

...Raja Radhika Raman
Hindi Writer

* * *

Extremely shocked to hear of the sudden demise of the beloved Chachajee. May God give us strength to bear this loss.

...Maharani and Maharaj Kumar Brajeshwar Kumar Sahi of Hathua

* * *

Deeply shocked to hear of the sad and premature death of the Maharajadhiraj. May his soul rest in peace and give you all strength to bear this irreparable loss. Accept our heart-felt condolence.

...H.L. Jalan, Patna

Shocked and grieved. Irreparable loss. Our condolence in sad bereavement.

...Maharaja of Saraila

Grieved at Maharajadhiraj's sudden demise. Kindly accept deepest sympathy.

...Nawab of Khagra
Kishangunj

I was stunned and shocked to hear of sad, premature and sudden demise of respected Maharajadhiraj. A light has gone away and Mithila is orphaned. Our loss is irreparable. May God give you (the members of the family) strength to stand this great tragedy.

...L.N.Mishra
Ex-Union State Minister

* * *

Please accept deepest condolences on your tragic loss.

...Maharaja of Coochbehar

* * *

Please accept deepest condolences on your tragic loss.

...Maharaj Kumar, Jaipur

BIHAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Executive Committee of the Bihar Chamber of Commerce in an emergent meeting today passed the following condolence resolution on the sad demise of Maharajadhiraj Sir Kameshwara Singh Bahadur of Darbhanga. The Bihar Chamber of Commerce records with deep regret the sudden passing away of Maharajadhiraj Sir Kameshwara Singh Bahadur of Darbhanga. With the passing away of the Maharajadhiraj this state has lost a philanthropist, an industrialist, and an aristocrat with magnanimous heart. His contribution to the cause of education is well known and the princely donation recently made to the Sanskrit University will be ever remembered as a token of his greatness. Born in the aristocratic family of the Darbhanga Raj, he was a man of great foresight and enterprise. He was connected with very many industries of repute. May his soul rest in peace.

Two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

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Shocked to hear sad news. May God give you strength to bear neavy responsibilities successfully.

...Arbind Bose, Calcutta

* * *

Shocked and deeply grieved to learn sad news of dear friend Kameshwara. My sincerest and heartfelt condolence to you, Maharani Sahibas and family

...Nawab of Murshidabad

* * *

Deeply grieved at sudden demise of Maharajadhiraj. Convey my heartfelt condolence to you and grieved family members.

...Nawab of Farugquee

* * *

Shocked. Heart breaking loss of dear friend of forty years. Your loss is grievous loss to country and all of us.

...S.M. Dhar, ICS (Retd.)

* * *

इस दुखद समाचार से अत्यधिक मर्माहत हो उठा हूँ। भगवान विश्वनाथ उनकी आत्मा को शांति और उनके परिवार को यह शोक सहन करने की शक्ति दें।

... श्री विभूति नारायण सिंह,
काशी नरेश

* * *

महाराजधिराज के निधन के समाचार से मुझे चोट लगी है। वे एक महान देशभक्त थे तथा उन्होंने देश की महान सेवाएँ की थीं। उनकी मृत्यु हम सभी के लिए एक बड़ी क्षति है। कृपया मेरी संवेदनाएँ स्वीकार करें।

...कन्हैयालाल मानिकलाल मुंशी

* * *

Deeply shocked to read of your uncle's sudden death this morning. Please acceptmy deepest sympathy and convey same to members of bereave family

...Maharaja of Burdwan

* * *

We are terribly shocked to read sad news in today's newspapers. Accept our heartfelt sympathy in your irreparable loss.

...Maharaja and Maharani of Nabha

* * *

Deeply grieved to read of sad demise of Maharajadhiraj Kameshwar Singhji. Kindly accept heartfelt condolence.

...Bharatpur Maharaj

* * *

Extremely shocked to learn of sudden demise of my oldest friend Maharajadhiraj. Great loss to Bihar and country poorer by his death. Accept sympathy and condolence

...Sir C.P.N. Sinha

* * *

अपने मित्र महाराजधिराज के अचानक निधन के समाचार से मर्माहत हो उठा हूँ। अभी हाल ही वे मुझसे मिले थे। और काफी स्वस्थ थे। उनके निधन से एक महान परोपकारी, एक विख्यात शिक्षाप्रेमी और एक विशिष्ट व्यक्ति उठ गया है। फिर भी भगवान की इच्छा पर वश ही किसका चल सकता है? कृपया दोनों महारानी साहिबाओं तथा संतप्त परिवार के अन्य सदस्यों तक हार्दिक संवेदनाएँ पहुँचा दें।

...डॉ॰ ज़ाकिर हुसैन,
उपराष्ट्रपति

* * *

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CONDOLENCE

Condolence Meetings were held at several places and institutions associated with Maharajadhiraj Sir Kameshwar Singh. Among the distinguished people who sent their condolence were :

Raja of Bhaji, Mr. Bahadur Shamsher Jung Rana (Darjeeling), Mr. S.N.Agrawal Deputy Speaker Bihar Vidhan Sabha, Mr. S.V. Sohoni Commissioner Patna Division, Mr. Kailashpati Singh M.L.C., Mr. A.P.Sinha M.P., Mrs. Kishori Devi M.L.C., Mr. Suraj Narayan Singh M.L.A., Mr. Girish Tiwary State Minister for Religious Trusts, Mr. Man Birla, Mr. R.K.Lakhotia, Sir Biren Mukherjee, Dr. B.P.Sinha, Mr. Narbadeshwar Singh, Mr. Rameshwar Prasad Golwara the Mayor (Patna), Mr. Aiyar of Walford, Doctor Sengupta of Gauhati, Doctor Soni of Delhi, Sri Kedarnath from Lucknow, Doctor Meghpad Singh of Jhansi, Mr. Ramashankar Dwivedi of Allahabad, Maharaj Kumar Vishwanath Prasad Singh from Allahabad, Pandit Harishchandra Mishra 'Mithilendu' from Calcutta, Mr. S.K.Ghosh of Calcutta, Mr. J.B.Hoon of New India Insurance Company, Dr. Dukhan Ram, Mr. R.P. Singh of Kursela, Dr. P.L.Shrivastav, Justice Khalil Ahmed, Mr. Krishnandan Sahay, Mr. G.N.Sahi, Mr. R.D.Seth, Mr. Bateshwar Singh from Ashok Villa Hazaribagh, Raja of Maksudpur, Mr. Dharamlal Singh, Mr. J.L.Berab.

Among the Organizations and places were :

Calcutta Transport Corporation, Calcutta; Mssrs Ashton, New Delhi; Walford Trading Ltd., Calcutta; Rameshwar Jute Mills; Ashok Paper Mills; Indian Iron and Steel Company; Oswal Association, Patna City; Bihar State Bharat Sevak Samaj, Board of Sanskrit Education, Bihar Research Society, All India Bharat Sadhu Samaj, Sinha Library, Vivekanand Middle School at Chiraiyatand (Patna), Kazipur Mohalla (Patna), Bhagalpur public, Ranchi Jounarlist Association, Bihar State Penjarapole Federation, B.P.C.C., Darbhanga District Integration Committee, K.C.S.Institute, Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh, N. & P. Karamchari Union, Bihar University Students' Union, Messrs Stewart and Co. of Calcutta, Saint Joseph Institute of Allahabad, Patna Municipal Corporation.

* * *

मैं तथा मेरी पत्नी महाराजधिराज के असामयिक निधन का समाचार सुनकर स्तब्ध रह गए हैं। उनकी मृत्यु से मैंने अपना एक मित्र खो दिया है। 36 वर्षों तक उनकी मैत्री और विश्वास प्राप्त किए रहना मेरे लिए एक महान सौभाग्य रहा। उनके निधन से बिहार में रिक्तता उत्पन्न हो ही गयी है, भारत ने भी अपना एक महान सपूत खो दिया है।

...जयपाल सिंह
एम० पी०, झारखंड

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CONDOLENCE

समाचार पत्रों में यह दुखद समाचार पढ़कर मैं मर्माहत हो उठा। कृपया मेरी संवेदनाएँ स्वीकार करें। महाराजधिराज के निधन से एक महान नेता और उदात्त विद्यानुरागी का अवसान हो गया है। ईश्वर उनकी दिवंगत आत्मा को शान्ति तथा शोक संतप्त परिवार को धैर्य प्रदान करे।

...महाराजा,
कासिम बाजार

* * *

महाराजधिराज कामेश्वर सिंह के उठ जाने से मिथिला अनाथ हो गयी। मिथिला और मिथिलावासियों के अभ्युत्थान के लिए वे आरंभ से ही सतत् सचेष्ट रहे। विदेश यात्रा से लौटने के बाद उनका बहिष्कार करने की कोशिश की गई जिस कारण से महाराजा को काफी मानसिक कष्टों का सामना करना पड़ा परन्तु वे विरोधियों के आगे झुके नहीं। आधुनिक ढंग पर अध्यापन करने के लिए उन्होंने मिथिला में अंग्रेजी की पढ़ाई की व्यवस्था की। उत्तर बिहार के बाढ़ पीड़ितों के साथ उनकी हमेशा सहानुभूति रही और उनकी सेवा सहायता के लिए वे बराबर मदद करते रहे। दलगत भावना से दूर रहकर स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में हिस्सा लेने वाले सभी दलों की उन्होंने सहायता की। एक बार महात्मा गाँधी पंडित मदन मोहन मालवीय तथा डॉक्टर राजेन्द्र प्रसाद के साथ दरभंगा सहायता संग्रह के लिए पहुँचे। महात्माजी उनसे सिर्फ एक लाख की सहायता की उम्मीद रखते थे परन्तु महाराजा ने उन्हें सात लाख रूपये का चेक भेंट किया। तीनों ही चकित रह गए।

जानकीनंदन सिंह,
एम॰ एल॰ सी॰, बिहार

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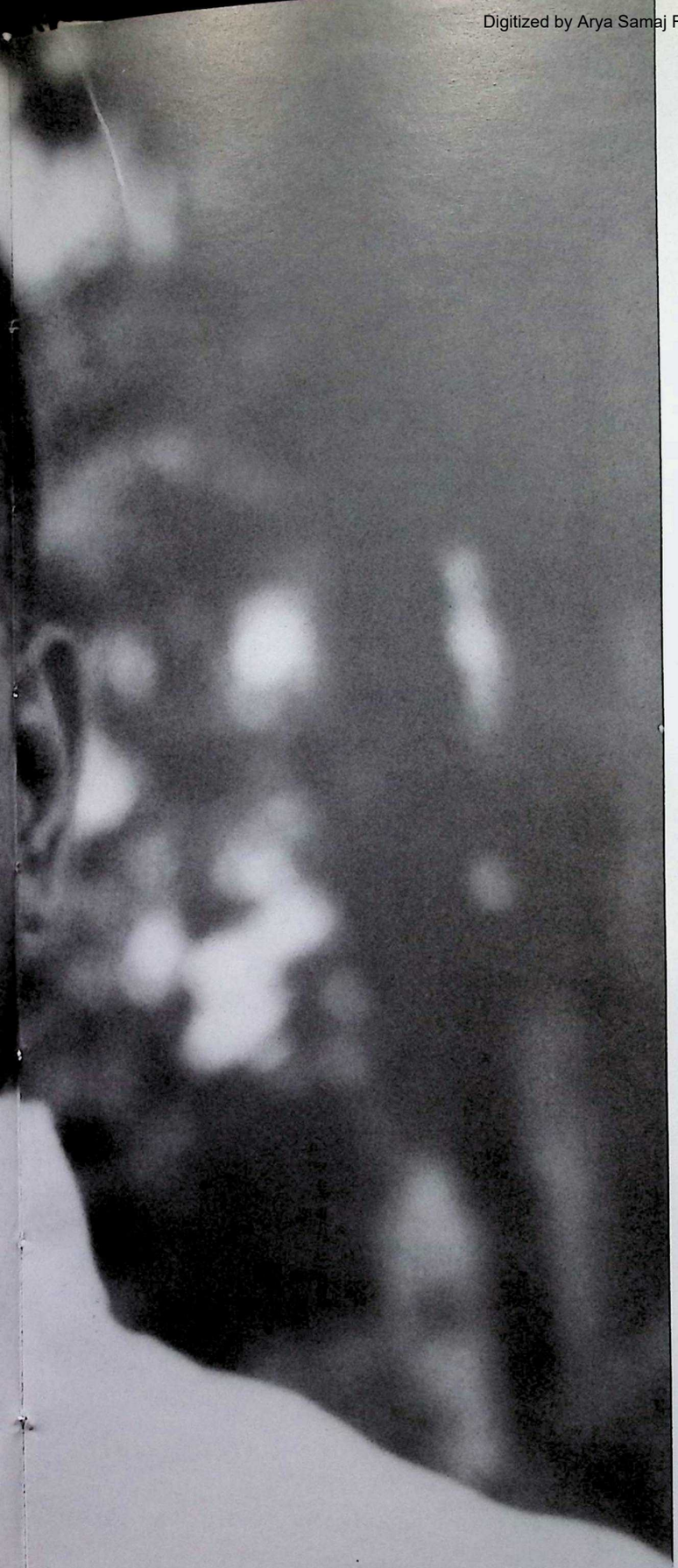

APPENDIX

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NOTE ON THE VICEREGAL OFFER BY MR. JAGJIWAN RAM, M.L.A., PRESIDENT ALL INDIA DEPRESSED CLASSES LEAGUE.

Taking for granted that the offer made by His Majesty's Government through Lord Wavell for resolving the political deadlock in India is sincere and the transfer of power envisaged in the proposal is genuine, I do not propose to examine the various aspects of the offer and their implication. The question of the exercise of the Veto of the Viceroy may be decided by mutual discussion to the satisfaction of all.

And so, I want to examine only two points in the offer which directly affect the Depressed Classes representation in the Executive Council.

1. "That the Executive Council should be reconstituted and the Viceroy should in future make his selection for nomination to the crown for appointment to his executive council from amongst leaders of Indian political life at the centre and in provinces, in proportion which would give a balanced representation of the main communities, including equal proportion of Moslems and Caste-Hindus."

The above clause lays down that (a) representation of the main communities in the Executive Council should be in a balanced proportion and that (b) the proportion of the Moslem and Caste-Hindus should be equal.

The proposition is self-contradictory. (b) i.e. concluding part of the clause contradicts (a) i.e. the first part. If the main communities are to be given a balanced proportion it is not possible to give equal prportion to Hindus and Muslims. The population of Muslims is much less than the Hindua even excluding the Scheduled Castes. So there cannot be parity of representation even between the Moslems and Hindus, other than Scheduled Castes, unless excessive weightage is given to the Muslims. And wherefrom this weightage is to come. Naturally it will come from the Hindus. The question arises as to why should the Hindus accept less representation than what they are entitled to and hand over a considerable proportion of their share to Muslims. The parity proposition is in itself obnoxious.

There is nothing in the offer to show us to what percentage is proposed for the Muslims and Caste-Hindus on the basis of parity of representation. But there have been forecasts in the press that out of 13 available seats in the Executive Council 5 seats are to be given to the Muslims and 5 to the Caste-Hindus. It is broadcast that the Deasai-Liaqat Ali pact lays this down. It amounts to that Muslims who form only 25.8% of the total population of British India are to have nearly 40% in the Executive Council - a weightage of 50%. Before tracing the sources of supply of this weightage let us examine the position of other main commnities which deserve representation. There are :

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(i) Scheduled Castes - The population of the Scheduled Castes is 399,210,00. They constitute 13.5% of the total population, 21% of the total Hindu population and 26.5% of the total Caste-Hindu population. On the basis of their population the Scheduled Caste deserve 2 seats out of 13 seats of the Executive Council. I do not weightage for any community. But in case it is decided to give weightage to certain communities, the case of Scheduled Castes for weightage is stronger than that of any other community.From point of view of their importance, numerical strength and backwardness, they must also get weightage. The percentage of weightage varies inversely to the population. Therefore, Scheduled Castes must get weightage double of what the Muslims get. Muslims get a weightage of 50% and as the population of the Scheduled Castes is nearly half of the muslim population, the scheduled castes must get a weightage of 100%. Thus they should get 27% of the seats in the Executive Council i.e. 3.5 seats or say 3 seats in the Executive.

But if Muslims are given 5 seats i.e. 40% Scheduled Castes 3 seats i.e.27%, the Caste-Hindus lose 27% of their seats which will be a great injustice to the Hindus. Besides there are other communities which on their own population strength do not deserve any seat. But as important community, they are to be associated with the administration. They will further encroach upon the share of the Caste-Hindus.

For example, Sikhs (1.4%), Christians (1.2%), Parsi (0.003%), Anglo-Indian (0.8%) and Europeans (0.3%) command collectively only 3.4% of the total population. If all of them are given among themselves 1 seat in the Executive, they will have weightage of more than one hundred percent. This entailing a further encroachment of more than 3% upon the Hindu share. Thus the Hindus will lose at least 30% of their share and will be reduced to the position of a minority.

The details of the composition of the cabinet i.e. the proportion; of the different communities are to be decided at the leaders conference at Simla. It is hoped that nothing will be done that will be unfair and unjust to other communities. Let every community have its own share. The distribution of seats amongst the important communities proportionate to their population will be :-

Hidus	-	**8 seats**
Caste-Hindus	-	**6 seats**
Scheduled Caste	-	**2 seats**
Muslims	-	**3.5 say 4 seats**
Others (sikhs, Christians, etc.)	-	**1 seat**

Even this distribution gives slight weightage to all minority communities but that is negligible.

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It may be mentioned here that if the Caste-Hindu decide to make over whole or a part of their share to the muslim or other communities, scheduled castes will not object so long as their share remains intact. They will not however tolerate if any party or community in its anxiety to appease the muslim league further reduces the already meagre share of the scheduled castes. Scheduled castes must have their proper proportion in any case.

(2) There is yet another point affecting the depressed classes which I want to deal at some length. This is about their representation at the leaders conference. In recent years, it has become usual with the British Government to support Dr. Ambedkar and his group in on and out of reason. The Central Government have been proping up the Scheduled Caste Federation formed only in 1942 though they are fully aware that there is another really representave organization of the scheduled castes - the All India Depressed Class League. But as the Depressed Classes League is a body of such persons of the Depressed Classes who are nationalist and do not support the Government blindly in all matters, this body does not find favour with the Government and preference is always given to the Federation by Government whenever occasion arises.

The Government is aware of the relative strength of the two organisations - the All India Depressed Classes League and the All India Scheduled Castes Federation. The League is the oldest organisation of the scheduled castes having been organised in 1935.

The strength of any organisation is judged by the strength and representative character of the persons owing allefiance to it and its popularity among its people. Judged from this point of view, it would be very easy to ascertain the relative strength of the two organisations.

Fortunately, under the Government of India Act 1935, Scheduled Castes were given 148 reserved seats in the various legislatures of the country which they contested in the general election of 1937. So, there are at least 148 persons among the Scheduled Castes who have been returned to the legislatures with the votes of their own people and that of the general votes. Scheduled Castes were returned generally on three tickets viz. Congress, Depressed Classes League and Dr. Ambedkar's party and few independents.

A reference, in this connection, is invited to the Government publication "Return showing the results of election in India, 1937" which gives the party allegiance of the Scheduled Castes members of various legislatures. Dr. Ambedkar's party can claim only 14 members out of 148 whereas the league owns the allegiance of more than one hundred members returned on Congress and Depressed Class tickets. Ex-ministers, ex-parliamentary secretaries, members of legislatures are members of the League besides, large number of members of local bodies. Apart from the allegiance of so many persons representing millions of our people, the League represents the ideas and ideals of the vast population of the scheduled castes and is thus their real representatives.

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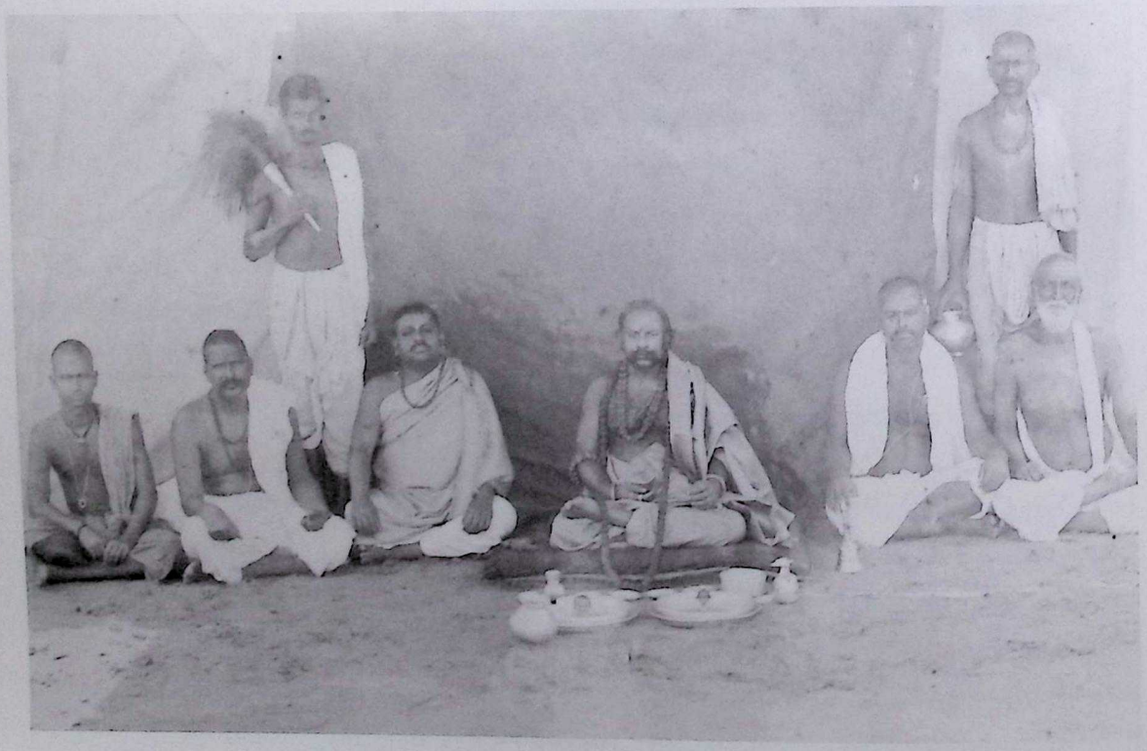
The above has been mentioned with a view to remove the impression in certain quarters which has been created by the persistent policy of the Central Government that the Scheduled Castes Fderation of Dr. Ambedkar is the representative body of the Scheduled Castes.

The fact is just opposite. And therefore, there is a strong feeling among the Depressed Classes that His Excellency the Viceroy has deprived the Depressed Classes of their real representation at the leaders conference by nominating Rao Bahadur N.Sivaraj to that conference and ignoring the Depressed Classes League.

It is hoped that the wrong will be righted in time and the real representative of the Depressed Classes will not be ignored on any occasion. It is further hoped that at least one person representing the Depressed Classes League should be taken in the Executive Council.



Maharajadhiraja Rameshwar Singh performing puja

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MR. JAGJIWAN RAM, M.L.A., PRESIDENT ALL INDIA DEPRESSED CLASSES LEAGUE AND MEMBER ALL INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE HAS ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT TO THE PRESS

The proposal of Lord Wavell as reported in the press for the formation of composite cabinet at the centre is such as does not deserve any serious consideration by any section of the people of the country because it is fair to none of them. To put a minority on an equal footing with the majority by dint of excessive weightage is in itself not only against all equation but is a negation of democracy. To reduce a majority to the position of minority is an absurdity. And this is what the present proposal seeks to achieve.

Besides being unfair to the Caste-Hindu majority, the scheme is also unjust in-as-much it does not concede to the scheduled castes even their just and proper share to which they are entitled on the strength of their population. As the most backward, suppressed and oppressed - section, the Scheduled Castes, in all fairness deserve more weightage than any other section of thecountry. But as the Scheduled Castes want to be fair to all, they will be satisfied if every community is given its share proportionate to its population. The Depressed Class League can not agree to such a prepostrous scheme and shall see that no member of Scheduled Castes co-operate in the formation of a national Government in which the Scheduled Castes do not get their proper share. The Congress will be losing its national character if it plays into the hands of some office hunters and climbs down to the position of a communal organisation and accepts to form a so-called composite Government on the terms reported in the press. I am confident Mahatma Gandhi and other leaders of the Congress will give such reply to the scheme as it deserves.

Depressed Classes are, no doubt, very anxious for the solution of the political 'deadlock' and for the restoration of popular Government in the provinces as they are the worst sufferers on account of the enforcement of section 93 rule, but they cannot be a party to any scheme which gives a decent burial to democratic principles and which is not fair to all the communities. The Depressed Classes League shall, however, cooperate fully in consideration of any other proposal based on equity and fairness to all.

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Maharajadhiraja Lakshmishwar Singh

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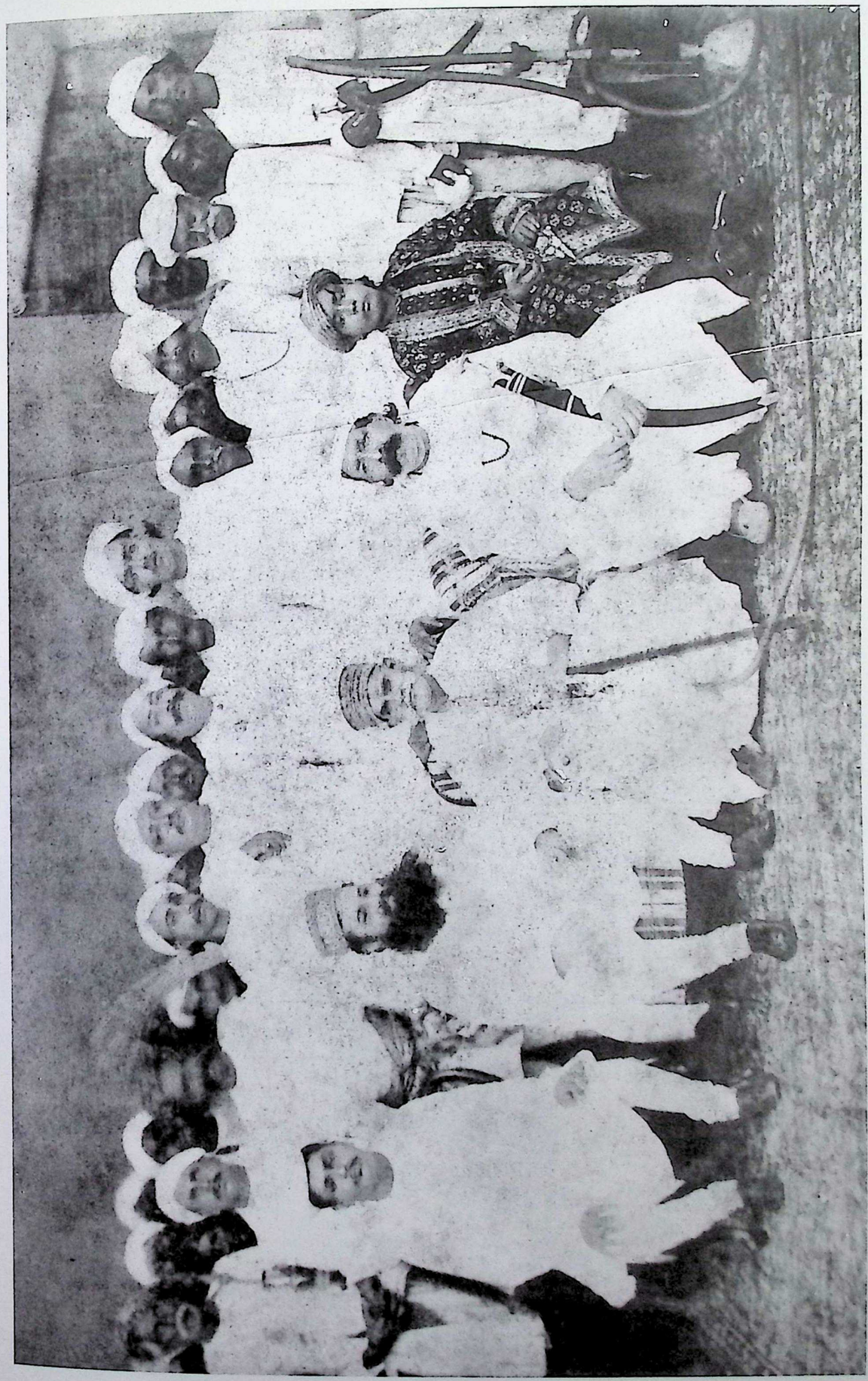

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From Left

Sitting : Mr. B.Chakraverti, Mr. Ashutosh Chowdhury, Mr. V.Raghavacharya, Hon. Maharaja Bah

Standing : Mr. Wadiyar, Mr. Gopal Krishna Gokhele, Mr. Dinshaw E.Wacha, Mr. Ramesh Chand

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o Right :
adur of Darbhanga, Mr. Dadabhai Naroji, Babu Rashbihari Ghosh, Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee
a Dutt, Babu Bhupendra Nath Basu, Mr. S.P.Sinha

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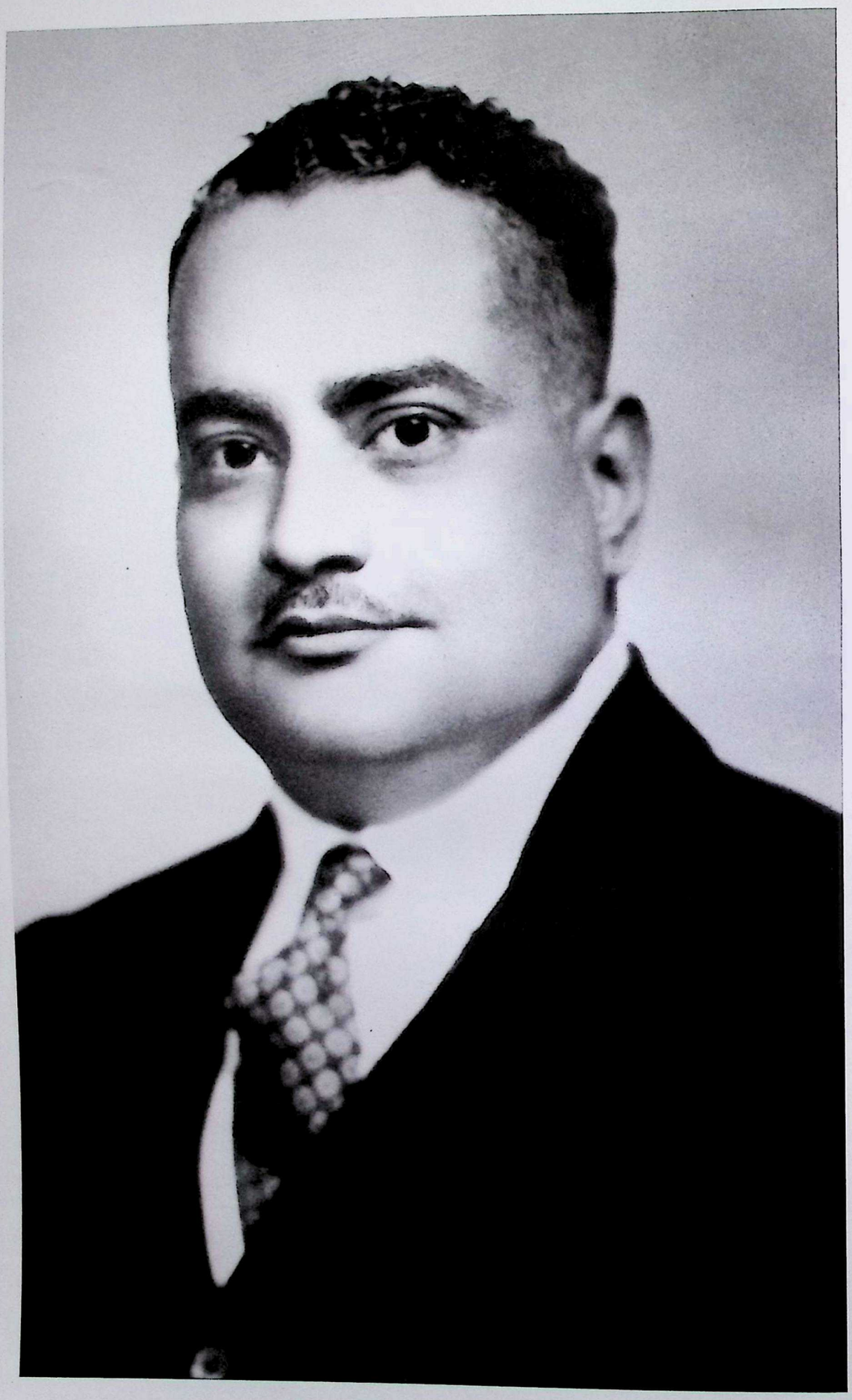

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The YOUNGEST LEGISLATOR of INDIA

The Biography

OF THE

386

Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja

SIR KAMESHWAR SINGH BAHADUR, K.C.I.E.

OF

DARBHANGA

BY

Ishvari Nandan Prasad, M.A., B.L.,

ADVOCATE PATNA HIGH COURT

[First Edition] [Price 8/-]

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INTRODUCTION

The Hon'ble Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwar Singh deservedly occupies a prominent place among the aristocracy of the country. He comes of a family which is too well-known to need any formal introduction. The ancient Darbhanga Raj family has now for generations past held aloft the torch of learning and religion and its traditions have been worthily handed down from sire to son. The present Maharajadhiraja represents all that is good, noble and beautiful in the traditions of his family. He is an oriental of orientals, a true Hindu whose characteristics are generous hospitality, liberality, charity, and sacrifice for others. But the west has also left its stamp upon him, and how the west has influenced him may be seen in his independence of character, manliness, love of discipline, wonderful capacity for work and the entire practical bent of his mind.

In this short biography of the Maharajadhiraja, it has been my endeavour to form a just estimate of him and in particular, to show that on the eve of a new epoch in the country, his career holds out a definite promise for the future. I shall consider my labour amply repaid, if I succeed in evoking a genuine appreciation of the work which he has so far done for the good of the public.

ISHVARI NANDAN PRASAD

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CHAPTER I

FAMILY

Before attempting a life-sketch of the youngest legislator of India, and perhaps the youngest British Indian Knight, Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwar Singh, K.C.I.E., it is appropriate to surbvet briefly the stage on which he has been called upon by Providence to play his part which by no means is an insignificant one. He is the 19th in the illustrious line of princes who have adorned the ancient Gadi of Darbhanga, and consistently upheld its glorious traditions.

THE FOUNDER OF THE DHARBHANGA RAJ

The exisling Dharbhanga Raj which comprises a large part of Mithila, was founded by Mahamahopadhyaya Mahesh Thakur who was one of the greatest Sanskrit scholars of Eastern India of his time. His family originally came from Khandwa in the Central Provinces. The Mahamahopadhyaya wrote the famous *Akbarnamah* in Sanskrit, and received in return from Emperor Akbar the grant of a principality which was then styled *Sarkar Tirhut.* Although it is not necessary to enumerate at length the many princes who graced the gadi of the Raj, we may mention in passing that the Rajas of Mithila, from Mahesh Thakur onwards, maintained an army of their own, and had also occasions to fight battles. Their heroic deeds are still enshrined in the poetry of Mithila, and heard with rapturous delight by the inhabitants of Tirhut. Maharaja Raghava Singh and Maharaja Narendra Singh were great heroes of the House of Darbhanga and showed remarkable prowess in battles which they fought with Nawab Ali Vardi Khan and Bhup Singh, a chief of the Nepal territory. Emperor Mohammad Shah souight the help of Maharaja Narendra Singh while marching against two Mohammedan chiefs on the North-Western Frontier. When the Nepal war broke out Maharaja Chhtra Singh Bahadur rendered valuable services to the British Government which were duly recognized by the Governor-General, the Marquis of Hastings who conferred upon him the old title of "Maharaja" which used to be adopted as a personal distinction by the ancient rulers of Mithila. Since then the title of "Maharaja" was retained till 1920, when the hereditary title of "Maharajadhiraja" was conferred on the late Maharaja Sir Rameshwar Singh Bahadur.

MAHARAJA SIR LAKSHMISHWARA SINGH

After the death of the grandfather of the present Maharajadhiraja (Raja Maheshwar Singh) the Raj was taken over by the Court of Wards on account of the minority of his successor Maharaja Sir Lakshmishwara Singh Bahadur, G.C.I.E. The present history of the development of Darbhanga Raj, therefore, begins as a matter of fact, from the date

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of the accession of Maharaja Sir Lakshmishwara Singh. An outstanding personality of his time, the memory of the late Maharaja is still cherished by his countrymen for his independence, patriotism and philanthrophy. When the national prestige was at stake, he vindicated the honour of the nation by purchasing overnight what is now called Darbhanga Castle, so that the Indian National Congress might have a suitable place for holding its session at Allahabad. But for the timely move on the part of the Maharaja, the venue might probably have been abandoned. This is but one of the numerous instances of his catholicity of outlook and spiruit of patriotism. His record of work in the Imperial Legislative Council bears testimony to his insight into public affairs and fearlessness in advocating a particular cause. He was in every sense a leader of men and he believed in *noblesse oblige*. His contributions to the various public and charitable institutions have immortalised him as a great benefactor of his people.

MAHARAJA SIR RAMESHWAR SINGH

Dying childless, he was succeeded in 1898 by his younger brother Maharajadhiraja Sir Rameshwar Singh Bahadur, G.C.I.E., K.B.E., D.Lit.: etc.:who in his turn fulfilled public expectations in an ample measure, and was held in high esteem by the people for his learning, political sagacity and practical idealism. With prudence and practical wisdom, almost unprecedented in modern times, he extensively expanded the resources of the Raj until it came to occupy its present position of being the largest zamindary in India. But while he made considerable accretions to the estate and conserved its resources, he must have spent no less than a crore on public charities during his life-time. The Benares Hindu University was established largely by his munificence. The Maharaja was a devout follower of Sanatan Dharma, and his activities were inspired by a true spirit of religion. He built over a hundred Hindu shrines all over India at a considerable cost. He was the first Indian member of the Executive Council of Bihar and Orissa after the new province came into existence. He was later elected to the Council od State, securing the largest number of votes. The Patna Radium Institute, the Darbhanga Medical School, the Benares Hindu University, the Patna University, the Bihar and Orissa Sanskrit Association and the Darbhanga Buildings in Calcutta in which the University is lodged - these are some of the monuments of his public benefactions. He died on the 3rd July, 1929, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Maharajadhiraja Sir Kameshwar Singh Bahadur, K.C.I.E.

BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD

The present Maharajadhiraja, who will shortly be celebrating his 29th birthday, was born on the 28th November, 1907. His father ever anxious to bring him up to the traditions of his noble family took a keen interest in the education of the young Maharaj Kumar from the very Beginning, and placed him under the car of Miss Edgar, a theosophist of repute who was assisted in the work by a band of eminent Sanskrit scholars and specialists

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in different branches of studies. Although he breathed freely in the modern atmosphere, and imbibed all that is best in the modern civilization, the training that he received in early life, left too deep an impression on his mind to shake the ground from under his feet or to distract him from the path of his old religious traditions. The respect for Hindu religion and culture is almost inborn in him and is too strongly rooted to be shaken by the impact of Western civilization. He combines in him all that is best in the East and the West and tries to harmonise them as best as he can in the discharge of his onerous duties and responsibilities.

ACCESSION TO RAJ GADI

The present Maharajadjiraja succeeded to the Gadi of Darbhanga on the 15th July, 1929, on the death of Maharajadhiraja Sir Rameshwar Singh Bahadur. He was only 22 when suddenly the tremendous responsibility of administering a big Estate involving complicated problems devolved upon his shoulders. The Maharajadhiraja addressed himself to his new task with exemplary courage, and the training that he had received during the life-time of his father stood him in good stead in tiding over difficulties. From the very beginning, he gave abundant proof of his commanding personality, administrative genius and a high purpose that never awerved from the goal even under the stress of the most trying circumstances. It was a delight to see the young and playful Maharaj Kumar assume the role of a responsible Maharajadhiraja blending in himself the sternness of an administrator with the affability of a perfect gentleman.

THE MAHARAJA AS AN ELDER BROTHER

As the late lamented Maharajadhiraja died without making any express provision for his younger son, the Maharaj Kumar or his daughter, interested people began to speculate as to the future differences that might arise between the two brothers over the question of the grant of the *Babuana property*. But while speculations were rife, the young Maharajadhiraja lost no time in coming forward with a well-matured plan of his own for settling the properties in question on his brother. Nobody had any idea as to what the Maharajadhiraja had in his mind for in fact so magnanimous was the offer which he was going to make to his brother that it really disappointed those who thought of making capital out of the situation. Long before they could realise the actualities of the matter, the elder brother's gift was already an accomplished fact hallowed by true brotherly affection and sealed and sanctioned by the requisite formalities of law. Hitherto it has been the practice in the Darbhanga Raj to settle such properties on the younger sons of the Maharaja as were only just sufficient to yield an annual income of 2 to 3 lacs of rupees, but Sir Kameshwar Singh considered it rather inequitable, and, therefore, departed from the same for the sake of his younger brother for whom he reckoned no sacrifice too

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great. In furtherance of his generous offer he renounced his claim to the properties in the "Raj Nagar Circle" yielding an annual income of seven lacs of rupees, in favour of his younger brother whose interestes were as dear to his heart as his own. This, in fact, was his first act of magnanimity, a sacrament of love which posterity will not willingly ignore or forget.

CHAPTER II

AS A SOCIAL REFORMER

The next critical stage in the life of the young Maharajadhiraja came when the Government of Lord Irwin invited him as a delegate to the first session of the Round Table Conference in 1930. It was a signal honour to have to respond to the invitation, as it afforded a great opportunity to a young man of 23 at the very threshold of his life to render some service to his country. But the obstacle in his way was an insurperable as his own desire for response was ardent and strong. Mithila itself is a stronghold of orthodoxy but the particular community of Shrotriya Brahmins to which the Maharajadhiraja belongs and of which he is regarded as the head, is still more given to conservatism in thought and action. His discussions with the orthodox section of Shrotriya Brahmins were of little avail, for the social "die-hards" had only one thought in their mind, namely that once the Maharaja crossed the seas, the citadel of orthodox religion was bound to receive a rude shaking to the utter prejudice of all that was sacred in ancient Sanatan Dharma. The Maharajadhiraja virtually found himself in a dilemma. On the one hand he was eager to seize the splendid opportunity of being associated with the deliberations of a Round Table Conference which was then supposed to decide the fate of his country, and on the other, he was confronted with the eventuality of a religious antagonism which threatened his social position, and imperilled the peace of the family. Nothing undaunted, the Maharajadhiraja took courage in his hands, and having secured the consent of his mother and his younger brother, he decided to cross the seas for the sake of his country. On his return from England, a storm of opposition awaited him, but the young Maharajadhiraja managed to meet the situation with tact and imagination, and was absolutely unperturbed . Events have since proved that by his bold step he was able to do a great service to the Maithili community in Bihar. Unfettered by any social restrictions, the Maithils can now with impunity cross the seas and have greater facilities for study, and research, facilities which had hitherto been denied to the scholars of Mithila. As a result of this welcome change, we now see Maithils compete successfully for the I.C.S. Examination in England, one of whom, notably, the son of Mahamahopadhyaya Dr. Ganganath Jha, ex-Vice-Chancellor of the Allahabad University, lately topped the list of successful candidates in England.

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SOCIAL REFORM THROUGH LEGISLATION

The young Maharajadhiraja always stresses the fact that neither one's caste nor religion could suffer or deteriorate merely by reason of crossing the seas, if people only preserve their character, and retain their faith in the teachings of their religious books. But it must be remembered that he firmly believes in the efficacy of reform from within, and does not countenance the idea of being dictated to by an external authority in this matter. He is, therefore, opposed to the idea of the legislature interfering with religious questions, as according to him, the legislature is after all a mixed body constituted of persons belonging to different races and religions. The Maharaja is clearly of opinion that social reform to be effective and permanent must receive its saction from enlightened public opinion, as any attempt to speed up reform through coercive legislation without the moral support of public opinion was foredoomed to failure.

The House of Darbhanga which traces its noble lineage from a great Pandit and scholar has proud traditions to its credit, and a code of its own for the uniform guidance of people in religious matters not only in Mithila which undoubtedly has been a seat of learning and culture, but throughout other patrs of Hindustan as well. The Maharajadhiraja himself, like his father, is a deeply religious man, but he views Sanatan Dharma in its true perspective. While he is a staunch supporter of reforms where social abuses are concerned, he is adamant on matters of religious principle, and reluctant to yield on the question of essentials. He is, therefore, totally opposed to the policy of those misguided people who pretend to advocate the cause of so-called reform in their utter ignorance of the essential tenets of the Sanatan Dharma, and unconscious of the narrawness of their own vision, venture to give a wrong lead to their followers on such questions.

Speaking at the Second Round Table Conference, the Maharajadhiraja said :-

"I shall not take up more of your time, Sir, and would finish briefly, advertising to one more point. The tendency of Indian legislatures has of late been to dabble with problems of social reform adversely affecting the religious ideas and traditions of the Hindu community at large. Religious matters or social reform should not be allowed to come before the Legislatures, but should be left alone to the leaders of the community or to the care of time and the advance of society in the line of reform by itself. Any such step is regarded as unauthorised and wounds the feelings of those who hold their religious traditions in sacred esteem. The policy of non-interference in all such matters ought, therefore, to be strictly adhered to and constitute one of the fundamental privileges of the Hindu society".

Turning to the same subject, the Maharajadhiraja said in the Council of State on the 12th February, 1935, in connection with the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee:-

"I am one of those, Sir, who feel that a heterogeneous house consisting of people

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following different religions, different social practices is not the proper authority to make changes in any of them. Social reform must be effected from within by the society concerned. It is idle to think of social reform by legislation, because, unless backed by the popular will, such legislations are honoured more in their breach than adherence. It is by the voluntary determination of the societies themselves that we can effectively bring about such reforms. All these rites and usages have a long history of their origin and growth, and it is difficult for people who do not belong to the particular community or sect to appreciate the importance of the religious rites followed by it. Further, when we see that even the religion of the materialistic West has been properly safeguarded by giving to the Governor-General and Governors special responsibility for *ecclesiactical affairs* we wonder why encouragement has been given to destroy the religions of the spiritualistic East by the withdrawal of the safeguards they hitherto had. The abandonment of the policy of religious neutrality will, I feel sure, throw an apple of discord in the political arena and apart from dividing the Indian people more and more, will shake their faith in British pledges. I earnestly appeal to the British Parliament that it may review the matter sympathetically and allow the present policy and legislative safeguard to continue".

CHAPTER III

THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

The Round table conference in London with its representative gathering of delegates from all over India served as an admirable training-ground for political experience, and the Maharaja fully availed himself of the prospects that promised to open up before him. There he had, indeed, the unique opportunity of coming into contact with the leading statesmen of India and England, and forming a just and correct estimate of men and their views. He took a profound interest in the study of political problems relating to India and discussed them with the most eminent politicians. From the first he figured prominently at the deliberations of the two Round Tabel Conferences, and impressed all those present with his remarkable ability as a rising politician. He was chosen as the head of the British Indian Delegation at the banquet given on their behalf to the Delegation to the Round Table Conference. His speeches at the Second Round Table Conference on the inadequacy of the mearures of reform, and the protection of the rights of the land-owning classes, and his clear enunciation of the principle of legislative non-interference in religious matters are sound and cannot but carry weight with the intelligentsia of the country. The late Mr. Wedgewood Benn, the then Secretary of State for India expressed his appreciation of the young Maharajadhiraja's ability and eloquence. The Maharajadhiraja was also invited to the session of the Third Round Table Conference but had to decline the invitation for reasons of health.

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AS A LEGISLATOR

Partly due to the unique position which he occupies among the noblemen of India, and partly, to the fact that he was eminently fitted for the distincton despite his tender age, the Governemnt of India nominated him to be member of the Council of state as soon as the Maharajadhiraja attained the minimum age prescribed for a legislator.

The positon, as is well-known, he has filled with distinction. His speeches in the Council of State to which. I shall subsequently refer show his wonderful grasp of the political and economic problems of our country.

His utterances have a ring of sincerity and earnestness:they breath a spirit of moderation, candour and liberality. They are remakable not only for style and impressiveness, but for the foresight and orginality of conception.

HIS POLITICAL VIEWS

The Maharaja's political views are liberal and quite in accord with the trend of present day progressive thought in politics. His speech in the Council of State on the White Paper on Indian Reforms gives us an idea of his real concern for the lager interests of the country. Patriotic in tone and outlook, they almost voice in essence the nationalist opinion of India.

"DISTRUST" WRIT LARGE ON THE REPORT

Speaking in the Council of State on the 12th February, 1935, the Maharajadhiraja said about the report of the Joint Parliamentry Committee :-

"It cannot be gainsaid that no section of the Indian people is satisfied and why? I clearly see the word "Distrust" writ large on the proposed constitution for India, distrust between the rulers and the ruled, distrust between different communities, distrust between different classes and interests influencing the social and economic life of this country, caused by a pre-dominating state of self-interest and is responsible for the production which is before us for consideration. We fought with one another for safe-guarding the rights and interests of our respective groups and now when we see the complete picture of what we have been able to bring about we note that there is a genuine and universal feeling that the remedy prescribed for our constitutional disease is worse than the disease itself".

"DEMOCRACY CONTROLLED BY AUTOCRACY"

Speaking earlier on the White Paper in the same house on the 27th March 1933, the Maharajadhiraja said :-

"Speaking generally, I am sure that what we are going to get is neither the substance

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of independence which Mahatma Gandhi wanted nor the Dominion Status which India expected to have. If I may say so, it is going to be a democracy controlled by an autocracy, a novel constitutional experiment the result of which it is difficult to appraise. In perhaps no other country the problems were so intricate and complex as in ours. We had not only to deal with British interests in India, but to confront internal problems such as the participation of the Indian States, the Hindu-Muslim disunity, etc. When there are so many diverse elements in the field each operating in its own way, I wonder if it could be hoped that anything satisfactory at all could be achieved.

"We have lost our ground by disunity, we failed to get our minimum demand because we could not come to an agreement amongst ourselves on some of the most vital issues before us. So long as we remain in that position no amount of denunciation of the White Paper or condemnation of the constitution that is going to be set up can take us far. But the moment we have attained the unity, the moment we are able to put a united demand, no force, I dare say, can resist us".

THE GOAL OF SWARAJYA

That the Maharajadhiraja never allowed either his or the zaminadars' political ideals to be pitched low can be seen from the bold statememt which he made in a speech at Ranchi on the 4th September, 1932, while inaugurating the Bihar United Party. The Maharajadhiraja said :-

"I hope you will agree with me if I describe our immediate political goal as "attainment of complete Dominion Status within the British Empire", and add that we should seek to attain it by "all legitimate and constitutional means".

INSINUATIONS NAILED TO THE COUNTER

Speaking further he said :-

"We should endeavour to efface the general impression that has been formed in certain quarters that our organisation would be an agency of the British bureaucracy to impede the progress of this country. In fact, I can declare with authority that nothing can be further from the truth than such misconceptions. All-round progress of India is and must remain, our watchword. Otherwise, how can we claim that the British Parliament shoud concede to us "Swarajya" or full liberty in the management of our own affairs, which we consider to be our birth right? We should be prepared to resist any force which would stand in the way of progress as vehemently as we would fight any element in the body-politic which might disrupt the whole fabric of Society".

APPEAL FOR COMMUNAL HARMONY

The young Maharajadhiraja has always been painfully conscious of the great humiliation to which India has been subjected on account of the existence of disharmony among the

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various communities. He, therefore, stands for communal harmony, and an equitable adjustment of various conflicting communal and class interests.

Speaking on the subject at Ranchi at the same meeting he made a fervent appeal for unity in the following words :-

"Another thing that we have to keep in mind is that we have to proceed on truly nationalistic lines reconciling, harmonising and adjusting the differences that exist between different classes, interests and communities and pooling up all our energy amd enterprise for the furtherance of our national ideals. We should completly forget what we had been and ever remember what we ought to be. Subordinate your social interests, Gentlemen, to common good of the nation and make amends for the humiliation to which our country has been put by having to appoint an outside authority for settlement of our communal differences. Let it not be said that there cannot be any national unity in India. Let it not be said that without the British intervention, India would be plunged into factional fights. Let us all sink our petty differences and standing on one platfrom declare that we are one and all Indians."

Ever loyal to his principles, Sir Kameshwar has scrupulously shunned communal prejudices with a view to furthering the higher interest of national life.

CHAPTER IV

THE MAHARAJA'S INTEREST IN THE TENANTRY

There is no doubt that the Maharajadhiraja being a land lord himself has completely identified his interest with those of the landlords, but never has his zeal as a landlord made him oblivious of the close affinity of interest which exists between the landlord and the tenant. He has always advised his landlord friends on different occasions not to minimise the importance of placing the interests of the tenantry above everything else. To him the well-being of the zamindar is bound up with the prosperity of the tenantry.

The following lines which have been taken from his spech at a meeting of landlords will be of interest in this connection :-

"Zamindar" and "Ryot" are relative terms. Their (ryots) interest are not antagonistic to our own as is commonly believed to be but identical. Zamindars shall live only so long as the tenants will live and vice versa. In fact, at this juncture, we have a clear duty to discharge towards our tenants. They need our helping hand and will drift, God knows whither, unless we stand by them. We can't ingnore the time-spirit, and the danger before us. Our paramount duty is to rise to the height of the occasion. when there are mighty forces at work to disrupt the body politic not only by making unwarranted encroachments

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on our rights and privileges but also by weaning away from us the sympathy and respect of our tenants, we cannot afford to sit quietly and watch. Our real safety lies in promoting goodwill between us and our tenants. We have made sacrifices in the past to make them happy and prosperous. Let us be prepared to make greater sacrifice to ameliorate their present condition."

Again he says :-

"We are their natural friends, philosophers and guides. We have inherited this position from our fore-fathers. It is up to us, therefore, to lead them to the right path, the path that will take them to increased prosperity and happiness. Unless we do so, we cannot justify our existence. I want you all to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people among whom and for whom you live. Emerson has rightly said that "the only way to have a friend is to be one" and I ask you to follow the maxim. No Government can help us, no safeguard can save us, and no constitution can guarantee our rights and privileges unjless we are able to harmonise our relationship with our tenants. Both of us have landed interests to protect, and common concern."

CONVICTION THROUGH EXAMPLE

Presiding over a representative meeting of landlords and other prominent people of Bihar at Ranchi on the 4th September, 1932, the Maharajadhiraja exhorted the landlords to demonstrate their active sympathy with the tenants He said :-

"Gentlemen, we have now to bestir ourselves and bring home to our peasantry that we still live with them and die for them. They will surely not be convinced by mere words. We shall have to convince them by our deeds. By action alone can we bring them into our fold. I do not want and perhaps none of us present here wants that our organisation should be guided and controlled merely by the landlord oligarchy. I would, on the contrary, like it to be a living force in the country reflecting the happy combination of capital and labour for the peace and prosperity of our mother country. We must remember that the interest of tenants and labour should be our interest if the country is to progress peacefully. We must win their heart and cut the ground from under the feet of our detractors. I venture to think that between the landlords and tenants there is a greater measure of agreement than of difference."

A BASELESS CHARGE

The Maharajadhiraja's sense of self-respect will never allow him to brook for a moment the baseless charge of lack of patriotism levelled off and on against landlords as a whole. He emphatically repudiated it in his speech at the meething of the All-Bengal Landlords' Confernce held in Calcutta on the 23rd December 1934.

Dwelling on this subject he observed :-

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"Not infrequently, for what we do, we are characterised as unpatriotic, enemies of our country and lovers of slavery. Can there be a baser and more malicious charge against us? I ask these canlumniators to turn the pages of history, examine the records of zamindars and other propertied classes and tell us whether or not the development and progress of the country has been or is being mostly effected through their public spirit and philanthropy, not to speak of the bulk of taxes which they pay to the coffers of the Government for the part of their work. But they are silent workers, and they are suffering for their silence. We are anxious for our preservation because we do not want to part with the opportunities which our position affords us to serve our country. If silence, sobriety and steadiness are qualities of unpatriotic people and virtues of slaves, we must plead guilty to the charge and take these epithets and leave the title to 'patriotism' for those rash and desperate people who have learnt to talk big and do little. But if we need not do anything for self-advertisement, we cannot ignore the duty that circumstaces have forced on us, viz., to warn the people against the danger of listening to the counsel of irresponsible political adventurers which must plunge the country into strife and ruin.

COUNTERACTING MISCHIEVOUS PROPAGANDA

"Our first and foremost duty is to counteract the mischievous propaganda that is being carried on among our tenantry and co-operate with them on the land questions in such a manner as may enable us to win their confidence and serve our common interest. At present even what we do for their good, is misrepresented and they are made suspicious about our intention. Time has now come when the zamindars should cease to feel that task is finished with the collection of rent from their tenants. They have a more difficult task before them, viz., to educate their tenantry in the proper way, take practical steps to remove their real difficulties, and gain their goodwill. This will be our permanent security and no effort is too great towards this end.

NECESSITY OF AGRICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT

"I further feel that it is essential that the fiscal policy of the country be such as may bring about the prosperity of the agriculturists. If agriculture will flourish, trade, commerce and present industry will expand and the Indian unrest brought about by economic factors will subside. Here, of course, we have to depend to a large extent on the government.

"But apart from that the Government does, it is the paramount duty of all thinking members of our community, jiontly and severally, to doall we can for the amelioration of the distressed condition of our tenants. If there is any thing that can kill the landowning community, it is the impoverished tenantry. It is, therefore, to our interest that their economic condition improves. We must help them to get better produce. If our own help in these directions cannot be given without the co-operation of the Government with good grace only when we have done all that lies in our power to do. There are niumerous items such as embankments, drainage, irrigation, roads, schools, medical relief, sanitaion,

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water-supply, etc., in which we can help and guide them. As I have said we live on land as much our tenants do. Thus, it is our common concern to see that it is properly nursed. Local conditions, of course, vary and we have to study and plan out different activities in different localities. I repeat again that if through our supineness or indiffernece we alow things to take their own course and encourage irresponsible agitators to poke their nose into our business, we shall surely be wiped out from the surface of the earth. The man who conquers indolence conquers all other hereditary sins."

A PRACTICAL STATESMAN

The Maharajadhiraja is a practical statesman. He has already translated these precepts into practice by setting an example in respect of his own relations with his tenants. Reading the signs of the time with the unerring foresight of a practical man of affairs, he has realised the urgency of conceding certain valuable rights to them. He in fact signalised his tenants although the changes involved a permanent preciable loss of its revenues. But firmly convinced as he was of the fairness of his move in this direction, nothing could deter the landlord in him from the path of duty. Most of these concessions were afterwards embodied in the general demand of the tenants of Bihar which formed the basis of Bihar Tenancy Bill introduced in the Council on this behalf. It was due to his intervention in the matter that the other landlords in Bihar were persuaded to agree to the amendments made in the existing tenancy legislation which now form the main provisions of the present Bihar Tenancy Act, and concede important rights to the tenantry of the province.

GRANT OF FIVE LACS FOR THE WELFARE OF TENANTS

Not content with the first benevolent act of his regime, he has recently launched upon a comprehensive scheme of rural upfift in the Raj for the well-being of his tenantry, and to this end, he has made an initial grant of five lakhs of rupees to be spent over major projects of relief for the good of tenants, and the improvement of agriculture. This grant is over and above the small discretionary grants left with managers of circles to meet any contingency that may arise to help the ryots and relieve their hardship.

The present policy of the Maharajadhiraja heralds the dawn of a new era in the relationship berween landlord and tenant, and will have the effect of waking up other landlords to the reality of the situation.

PASTURAGE SCHEME IN DARBHANGA RAJ

Of the various schemes for rural welfare now before the Maharajadhiraja, the one which seeks to provide adequate pasture lands for cattle throughout the Raj is of great importance. The details ae now being worked out, and it is hoped that when the scheme is put into operation it will do a real good to the tenantry, and help to maintain their cattle in an efficient condition.This is of course a distinct move towards the promotion of rural uplift and the Darbhanga Raj will be a pioneer in this direction so far as our province is concerned.

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"HEED THE SIGNS OF TIME"

The Maharajadhiraja has invariably tendered sound advice to his brother landlords asking them to be in tune with the time-spirit, and adjust their relations with the tenants according to the needs of the hour. He has got the perspective of a historian and keeps abreast of the latest deveopments of thought the world over. He carefully studies the world movements of the age, and tries to bring about a readjustment of relations in the light of changes that are shaping the destinies of mankind to-day, Speaking at the same meeting on the subject of a new orientation of outlook he said :-

"We have left behind an age in which the zamindar living in his country-seat unaffected by world forces, used to occupy a pre-eminent place in the social, political and economic life of the people. The ryots on the one hand and the Government on the other, used to look upon him for help. He had prestige, he had privilege, he had power. But now, the surging wave of democracy is threatening to engulf them. It has done its work in other parts of the world and after destroying the old aristocracy- the aristocracy that did not heed the signs of the time-brought into being upstarts, adventurers and speculators, who without possessing the refinement, culture and taste of the old nobles possess all the vices for which they had been vilified. Where, however, the aristocracy adapted itself to the needs of the situation they have existed and led, and we must follow their example so that we may exist and lead. We must by our thought and deed show that we are not against progress, we are not against the advancement of nation, we are not unpatriotic, we are not slaves, but all the same we are practical and responsible men and our methods, though different from those of visionaries and revolutionaries, will slowly but surely lead to the common goal namely, *Swaraj* for India. We have to fight on every front, and succeed."

THE DUTY OF LANDLORDS

Concluding he observed :- "I would, in conclusion, earnestly ask you, Gentlemen, to realise the supreme importance of the duty that lies before you. Forget what you have been.. Look to the present and to the future and decide what we have to do. Adapt yourself to the growing needs of the situation, and go ahead. We are on the brink of a preeipice. One false step will drown us in the abyss that is gaping at us. But if we act rightly we shall have established ourselves firmly on a summit from wihch we can peacefully survey and command."

His speech is a clarion-call to the magnates of the country to awake, arise and adapt themselves to the spirit of the age. It will be a happy augury for the future if the zamindars move with the dynamic spirit of the time with a view to the progrssive realisation of harmonious relations between labour and capital, the landlord and the tenant.

The Maharajadhiraja, as we have already seen, has always supported the claim of landlords to fair and equitable treatment and stood firmly for the protection of their

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rights and privileges. He is unquestionably a tower of strength ot their cause. It will be difficult to say if any one else in the country has worked more strenuously than the young Maharajadhiraja to counteract the reactionary forces which threaten to disrupt the system of zamindari with all its noble traditions. He has put forward an irresistible plea for the continuance of the *Permanent Settlement* and has never failed to sound a timely note of warning against any attempt whatsoever to impeach the inviolability of the *Permanent Settlement*, or to challenge the right, title and interest of landlords. He has also ranged himself decisively against the recent agitation in certain interested quarters in England and India to tax agricultural income which for obvious reasons has so far enjoyed complete immunity from taxation. The Maharajadhiraja could foresee in these attempts which, though feeble in the beginning, have received considerable impetus during recent times, the seeds of destruction of the whole edifice of the existing system of land tenure, and has arrayed his forces against all such agitations.

SOLEMNITY OF PLEDGES TO LANDLORDS

Speaking at the Second Round Table Conference in London the Maharajadhiraja while explaining the position of the landlords said:-

"We do not, by putting forward our claims, want to enrich ourselves at the cost of others, or impede in any way the march of our country towards progress, leading to full nationhood, but we cannot allow the rights and privileges of our class to be ignored or encroached upon. This brings me to the implications underlying the *Permanent Settlement. Sanads granted to us under the Permanent Settlement should be regarded as solemn pledges and their binding nature and sanctity should not be minimsed.* Any attempt to disregard these or to nullity their value by the imposition of fresh taxes on agricultural income will be deemed nothing short of a breaxh of faith. These sanads ought to be regarded as a charter of our fundamental rights and should be respected and safeguarded as such."

TAXATION OF AGRICULTURAL INCOME

Presiding over the Conference of landlords in Calcutta on the 13th July, 1930, the Maharajadhiraj voiced his strong protest against Sir W. Layton's suggestion regarding the taxation of agricultural income in the following speech:-

"This recommedndation made simultaneously with the sugestion of Sir W. Layton that agricultural incomes should be taxed, makes us believe that our rights as the largest stake-holders of this agricultural country are being ignored. We feel that the Government ought to have taken steps to safeguard our position by giving us representation commensurate with our stake in the country. We trust that the British Parliament will not allow this to materialise and give us substantial representation to guard ourselves from the attacks made on our livelihood, such as the suggestion of Sir W. Layton. We deeply deplore this, coming at a time when the entire country is in such a chaotic condition. This

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most unreasonable suggestion of Sir W. Layton does not, fortunately, form a part of the Constitution laid down by the Royal Statutory Commission..... This shows the absolute necessity of the zamindars' gelting enough representation in the Legislatures. I say, the most unreasonable suggestion of Sir. W. Layton, as it is to me, is inconceivable. How any right-thinking men will agree to his suggestion of taxing zamindars further when we are already paying the cess towards which no other class is paying a pice."

HELP TO SMALLER LANDLORDS

Although the biggest landlord himself, the Maharajadhiraja has never been unmindful of the interests of the small zamindars whose cause he has always espoused. He has maintained throughout that it is the duty of the bigger landlords to look to the needs of the smaller landlords, and realise thir identity of interest with them. The Maharajadhiraja clearly emphasised his point when he gave the following advice to the zamindars at the Landholders' conference in Calcutta. Referring it this topic, he said ;-

"Our next important duty is to help the small zamindars to recover the position of influence which they have lost. We cannot neglect this problem. I apprehend that if things will be allowed to drift like this, the number of zamindars will dwindle to almost a vanishing point. They must be brought together and a satisfactory method of managing and developing their estates and relieving their indebtedness must be found within the legal framework of their rights."

THE INTEREST OF INCOME-TAX ASSESSEES

While landlords have counted upon the Maharajadhiraja's advocacy of their cause, the Indian mercantile community and other individuals who are assessed to Incometax have not escaped his attention. The Maharajadhiraja himself pays a large sum as incomtax and has a considerable stake in the trade and commerce of the country. He has always pleaded for reduction of taxes and surcharges and exemption of higher incomes from super-taxation. As a member of the Council of state, he made it a point to voice the strong feeling of the income-tax assessees on the subject.

Speaking on the Finance Bill on the 11th April, 1935, in the Council of State, he said:-

"The second matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the Government is that the reduction in surcharges is not satisfactory. This has been an emergency measure and it would have been fair if the Government would have treated all such measures with the same cosideration. I do not see any reason why cuts from salary are to be treated differently from compelling the overtaxed tax-payers to pay extra taxes on their hard-earned income; and why the one should have preference over the other. There would have been perhaps little cause for grievance if the anticipated surplus would have been utilised for reducing the emergency taxes and cuts in equal proportion. The position to-day is that while

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Government servants have got back their former income, those engaged in trade, manufacture, commerce, industry, etc., still have their incomes considerably reduced on account of the economic depression, which has not yet passed, and therefore the taxation affects the latter more adversely than the former and the material progress of the country is arrested. I hope, however, that the Finance Department will see that the surcharge is completely wiped out in the next financial year. We generally find that the Government goes on increasing its expenditure for one of its proposals or the other, on one pretext or the other, and makes the emergency taxes permanent. The super-tax, which was introduced merely as a war-measure is a glaring instance of the same. We wish to be reassured that nothing of that kind will happen to emergency taxes that have been imposed merely on account of the stress of grave economic crisis. We have before us the prospect of an increased expenditure as a result of the introduction of the new constitution and this makes us apprehensive of the fact that the Government may go on deferring its pledge for the reduction of these emegency taxes to Doomsday."

THE CONFLICT BETWEEN CAPITAL AND LABOUR

The present conflict between Capital and Labour will have ceased in no time if the zamindars and capitalists hold their wealth in trust for the nation. As it is, we find that all the socialistic or communistic ranklings of today are due to the self-centred attitude of the Capitalist who enjoy his wealth in the midst of scenes of poverty and starvation around him. If the public conscience in India wakes in time to the stark realities of the situation, we shall have undountedly a different tone on our public life. We shall then take greater care of the millions of the famished masses who vegetate in hunger and ignorance from day to day as a result of the apathy of those who, though rich, yet refuse to spend their wealth for their well-being. The tenant needs the landlord as much as the landlord depends on the tenant for his sustenance, and likewise the labourer and the capitalist are mutually dependent on each other for their common good. Separate the interest of the one from that of the other, and you have the ignoble distinction between the classes and the masses with its bitterness, strife and hatred which find an emphatic expression in the subversive movements of today. These movements will die a natural death if, as I have said, the capitalist holds his wealth in trust for the nation, and ceases to be selfish. Can India really suffer when her Princes, Rajas and Maharajas are there to help her with their fabulous wealth? The one and only reasonable answer is: "No. she connot suffer if only the custodians of wealth and privilege take into consideration the interest of the masses as well". It is ever the golden truth that the hand that holds the plough sustains the throne of princes as well, and the classes and the masses are indissolubly linked up together in the silken chord of unity which none may snap. we are all one and what affects one affects the the other as well. This is the law of life as intuited by the Rishis of old.

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CHAPTER V

THE EARTHQUAKE OF 1934

The earthquake of the 15th January, 1934, which wrought an unprecedented havoc in the province is yet fresh in the minds of the people. Darbhanga was greatly affected and the loss of life and property was incalculable in that district. The losses incurred by the Raj when counted in terms of money ran into crores, and were enough to perturb the equanimity of even the most resourceful of men and organisations. But the Maharajadhiraja bore the calamity with fortitude. Utterly oblivious of his personal losses he set about harnessing all available resources of the Raj to render such relief as was necessary under emergent circumstances. Relief measures were forthwith adopted on a large scale. But the whole thing was done unostentatiously like all other philanthropic activities of the Darbhanga Raj. If one cares to scrutinise the measures of relief adopted and the amount spent over them, one is bound to be strock by the fact that the work of relief was carried on mainly with a view to relieve the distress of thousands of people suddenly rendered homeless and destitute by an unforeseen catastrophe. When the columns of newspapers used to be full of reports of the relief work done by the various relief agencies in Bihar, the Darbhanga Raj instead of diverting its evergy to publicity, was engaged in silent and constructive work, and the acknowndgment of its worth is writlarge on the hearts of a grateful people, to whom help was given when it was needed most. In order to be able to apreciate the nature and extent of the relief rendered in the affected area, one has only to read a highly informative book on the subject entitled "Earthquake and Darbhanga Raj" written by Kumar Ganganand Sinha, M.A., which gives an adequate idea of the help rendered to the people in the hour of their ordeal. Those who had any occasion to see the Maharajadhiraj at work after the great earthquake can bear testimony to the fact that though his personal loss was immense, his whole attention was centred on the wellbeing of those people who were hit hard by the disaster and had no resources of their own to fall back upon.

While doing all that was possible for the poorer classes, he was also not unmindful of the requirements of the higher, and specially the middle classes who felt delicacy in accepting gratuitous relief from anybody, much less from the Government. To such people as well as to those who were members of a respectable calling, the maharajadhiraja offered to advance long-term loans at a nominal interest of 2 per cent. per annum. As this was a great concession to them and since the Government advanced loans under the Natural Calamity Loans Act at nearly 6 per cent., a large number of repectable people as well as Raj tenants took advantage of this offer, and loans, were granted to them on easy terms. Thus the middle class people were able to obtain a substantial measure of relief.

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DARBHANGA A MODEL TOWN

Darbhanga having fallen on evil days during the dark days of the earthquake, the Maharajadhiraja was naturally active in devising ways and means for the reconstruction of the town on model lines, He knew full well that the existence of narrow roads and the congestion of houses had all proved a veritable death-trap for the unfortunate people at the time of the earthquake. Besides, the presistent tremors, the sensational predictions of astrologers, and the disconcerting forecast about North Behar standing on an active seismic belt-were all rude reminders of the cruel blow that was dealt on the fateful 15th of January, and sure signs of a state of utter insecurity for the future. If the town was to be rebuilt the only alternative feasible was to construct earthquake-proof houses on a scientific plan with the idea of making them safe for the residents, especially for women and children. While he was thus engaged in examining the plans of reconstruction of his own palaces, officers' quarters and premises of various other institutions connected with the Raj, he also conceived the idea of making effective improvements in the town itself for the good of the public. He lost no time in consulting the Government on the matter, and immediately announced his intention of donating five lacs of rupees to which he subsequently added another two lacs and half for the purpose of rebuilding the entire town on model lines through the instrumentality of a properly constituted Trust to be know as the Darbhanga Improvement Trust. The proposal was at first disfavoured by adverse critics who wanted to turn it down, and even the Government had some misgivings on the score of its utility, but ultimately saner counsels seemed to prevail, and the Darbhanga Improvement Trust Act was eventually passed by the Legislative council without demur. Even a casual observer who visits Darbhanga today will be able to notice that a new town is fast springing up on the ruins of the earthquake promising better amenities to its inhabitants than what they had enjoyed before. The new hospital re-constructed on an up-to-date style, the officers' quarters, the Library, the school, the Vidyalaya, the park, and the collonnade associated with the name of the late Maharajadhiraja all these are monuments of Sir Kamehswar's creative genius, and rightly will he be known to future generations as the maker of modern Darbhanga.

CHAPTER VI

WORK FOR EDUCATION

Education is to the Maharajadhiraja as to his predecessors a sacred mission in his Raj, his highest aspiration. The magnificent contributions made in furtherance of the cause of education by the house of Darbhanga and the part played by its heads in endowing the Universities of Calcutta, Benares, and Patna. (The Darbhanga Buildings in which the offices of the Calcutta University are housed are by themselves a monument of its

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munificence) are too well-know to need recapitulation. Naturally enough, the young Maharajadhiraja follows in the footsteps of his great forbears, and shows a genuine interest in the cause of education.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM

The Maharajadhiraja holds strong views on the present educational system, and believes that nothing short of a concerted plan to relieve the prevailing unemployment among the educated middle classes can solve the problem. Presiding over the All-Bengal Landholders' Conference on the 23rd December, 1934, the Maharajadhiraja casually referred to this matter and said :-

"No less essential for us is the tacking of the problem of unemployment amongst the educated young men. I think that we can do this if we industrialise agriculture and follow a concerted plan of action. It is undoubtedly a task of great magnitude and giving employment in Government or zamindari service connot go very far towards solving the problem. Not only has he offered this advice theoretically to the landlords of Bengal, but in practice too he has launched upon a comprehensive seheme of industrial training which ought to be an eye-opener to the educational experts of the country.

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

Under his personal guidance, the Darbhanga Raj H. E. School has introduced into its curriculum a complete course of industrial training with the idea of combining vocational training with the teaching in the Secondary schools. This is quite a novel plan worthy of emulation by Government institutions. Vocational training-classes are the need of the hour and their utnility at this can be better imagined than described. The new classes in the Raj School have been equipped with modern requirement at a great cost and the Maharajadhiraja's personal interest in the institution is a guarantee of its successful working in the future.

SANSKRIT TEACHING

To encourage the teaching of Sanskrit in Tols and Pathsalas and to promote the cause of Oriental learning has been the tradition of the Darbhanga Raj. The Maharajadhiraja, out of respect for this time-honoured tradition, has opened a number of Tols and Pathsalas in his Raj where the great Pandits of Mithila teach Sanskrit on classical lines. The scholars who come out of these schools in their turn carry on the torch of learning to the other provinces of India. All these institutions are entirely financed out of the Raj funds allocated for the purpose.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND STIPENDS

The Maharajadhiraja has sanctioned a numher of scholarships for deserving students of his estate for the prosecution of higher technical studies.

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It will appear from all this, his interest in education is of an abiding nature, and one can have no doubt that this noble cause will receive even grater attention from him in the days to come.

CHAPTER VII

CHARITIES

The traditional munificence of Darbhanga Raj is wellknown and is even more remarkable in view of the prevailing economic depresion which has had the effect of tightening the purse-strings of many a landlord and financier of the land. It would not therefore be any exaggeration to say that inspite of the economic slump, and the devastation caused by the earthquake which has involved the Maharajadhiraja in a heavy expenditure of money amounting to several crores, he has within the last seven years spent over Rs. 23 lakhs on charities besides setting apart a large sum of money amounting to several lacs for expenditure over such schools, hospitals and dispensaries as are directly under the management of the Raj. The benefactions may well be said to have exceeded all public expectations, and are almost unsurpassed in the annals of philanthrophy.

A VAST FIELD OF CHARITIES

The charitable activities of the Maharaja cover a vast field. Convince him of the worthiness of a public cause, and you are sure to have his patronage. In judging the beneficence of a publi ccause he is guided by a broad humanitarian standpoint which knows no parochial limitations. So it is that not only Bihar but whole of India claims the attention of the Maharajadhiraja who is supposed to be a tower of strenght to all public causes and instituions. During the earthquake days, although he himself suffered a greatlossfinancially,hecontributed Rs. 1,00,000/- to the Viceroy's Fund because the cause appealed to him. This was in addition to contributions made for the up-keep of organisations for relief which he himself had inaugurated in his own province.

LADY WILLINGDON HOSPITAL

He maintains an up-to-date indoor hospital known as Lady Willingdon Hospital which is housed in its own building, the foundation stone of which was laid by Her Excellency Lady Willingdon. The hospital is fitted with X-Ray Diathermy and other modern medical equipments. There are 12 charitable dispensaries and an indoor hospital at different centres of Darbhanga.

THE 'INDIAN NATION'

The Maharajadhiraja has rendered a great service to the Province and to the cause of Indian nationalism, by founding the *Indian Nation*, a daily organ of public opinion and

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maintaining it at a great personal sacrifice. There being no 'daily' in Bihar, the *Indian Nation* filled a long-felt gap, and was welcomed by all schools of political thought as a journal of independent, nationalist opinion. If a comparison be permissible, the *Indian Nation* in Bihar promises to occupy in all respects the same place as the *Leader* in the United Provinces. To quote its own words : 'The *Indian Nation* claims to be national, independent, and complete. In other words, it is committed to no political party, but supports whatever party it believes to be acting in the national interest; and it is complete in the sense that it does not distort or suppress news , or views, which it may regret or deplore. Moreover, it is independent, not only of parties but of any *other influence whatever*'. The *Indian Nation* has, indeed, raised high hopes among the *intelligentsia* of the province, and if it maintains throughout a high standard of tone and temper coupled with due regard for a courageous advocacy of public causes their expectations will have been amply justified.

Besides these item, the following figures will give an idea of the donations given by the Maharajadhiraja between July 1929 and July 1936 :-

I. Education.	**Rs.**
Patna University	1,20,000/-
Benares Hindu University	1,06,000/-
Other Educational Institutions	57,165/-
Total	**2,83,165/-**

Note :- (This does not include expenses incurred on the equipment and maintenance of institutions directly maintained by the Raj from the general funds).

II. Relief	**Rs.**
Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Funds' (Bihar and Quetta)	1,01,000/-
King George Memorial Fund (to fight tuberculosis in Bihar)	1,00,000/-
Darbhanga District Board for sinking tube wells	1,00,000/-
Other Misellaneous Relif	18,915/-
Hospitals and Dispensaries (outside Raj)	2,107/-
Total	**3,22,022/-**

Note :- (This does not include the amount sanctioned for the relief of Earthquake-stricken people in Darbhanga Raj)

	Rs.
III. Darbhanga Raj Welfare Scheme	5,00,000/-

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IV.	Darbhanga Improvement Trust	7,50,000/-
V.	Religious Societies, etc.	1,16,892/-
VI.	Charitable Institutions	1,44,260/-
VII.	Miscellaneous	44,606/-
VIII.	Fixed annual contribution to Educational Institutions, Dispensaries, Religious Celebrations and various Associations (unconnected with the Raj)	60,678/-
XI.	Set apart for Darbhanga Water-Work (when the scheme materialises)	1,00,000/-
	Grand Total	**Rs. 23,21,632/-**

CHAPTER VIII

AS A MAN

The young Maharajadhiraja has a fine personality. Scion of a royal family, he is affable in manners, dignified in bearing, and noble and aristocratic in appearance. He has about him all the brilliance and grandeur of an oriental prince tempered by a touch of that humility which is the true essence of culture. His sincerity and enthusiasm for public good, and above all, his candour and earnestness of purpose - all combine to make him one of the most respected citizens of today. Even those who do not share his political views find it difficult to withhold their admiration from him. Richly endowed with tact and humour which enables him to convert even foes into friends, the Maharajadhiraja can claim among his intimate friends some of the greatest British statesmen and Indian publicists, politicians and princes, despite the disparity of age that exists between himself and most of them. Lord and Lady Willingdon were on terms of the closest intimacy with him and it was on account of their friendship that they came all the way to Darbhanga to be the distinguished guests of the Maharajadhiraja on a very important occasion.

"LOFTY AMBITIONS"

Mr. C.Y.Chintamani, the great Indian leader and journalist, once wrote about the Maharajadhiraja in the following terms :-

"I met the present Maharajadhiraja first on board the *Kaiser-i-Hind* in October, 1930. We travelled together to England, and both on board the ship and in the first Round Table

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Conference, we had many opportunities of knowing each other and appreciating each other's opinions. I have - To youths he is trusted and reliable comrade, to elderly persons he is a counsellor at all times, and to his acquaintances he is a friend, philosopher and guide. Such is the Maharajadhiraja who though a born aristocrat is democratic by temperament out-and-out.

CONCLUSION

I cannot conclude this sketch without observing that the foregoing pages are just an attempt to give a bare idea of the Maharajadhiraja and his multiferious activities. It is, if I may borrow a term of photography, just a snapshot of his life rather than complete picture of the man. He is yet too young to be judged critically or comprehensively and what has been written of him is but an estimate of his labours during the last seven years, a period too short for any man to rise to the full height of his stature. Having this limitation in view, the impression that one forms on knowing his work and worth is that he has the promise of a great career, and in the radiant light of optimism, I see for him a bright future blooming afar. The opportunities that he has so far seized and the widening range of his public activities, his patriotic fervour and independence of outlook, and what is really striking, his unparalleled munificence - all compel a respectful consideration of the man and his mission. The dawn of a new age is upon him, just the age when the horizon of man's thought bids fair to expand and a new world seems to swim into his ken. Bright as the future is, the Maharajadhiraja will have difficult times to face. Forces of Fascism, Communism and democracy will be contending for primacy, and the currents and cross-currents of dynamic thought will be passing like troubled waves, from one end of the country to another. His primarily will be the task of rising equal to the occasion in a spirit of true statesmanship with its clear hold on the essentials. May he by his strivings for the good of mankind and by his acts of princely benevolence to alleviate the pains suffering humanity and extend the bounds of knowledge, become ennobled amongst the illustrious of the land! When he will have achieved greater things, as I hope he will, the future biographer will be able to record his verdict with greater authority than the author of this work.

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364. LETTER TO LORD LINLITHGOW

By Mahatma Gandhi
SEVAGRAM, WARDHA,

PERSONAL

June 7, 1940

DEAR LORD LINLITHGOW,

I have to thank you for your two letter of 3rd instant. I think I understand your letter about the war situation.3 My intense prayer to the Almighty is for a speedy end of this terrible suffering. As to Miss Sheridan's bust I do not know that you have not brought a hornet's nest about your ears.4

You are sure to have protests against the acceptance. And as it seems to me nothing is to be gained

by the step you contemplate. As a mark of personal affection naturally I esteem your action. I am merely presenting an impersonal view for you consideration.

I shall not expect any reply to this letter.

I am,
Yours sincerely,

M. K. GANDHI

3 *Vide* 2nd footnote of "Letter to Lord Linlithgow", 26-5-1940.

4. The Viceroy had informed Gandhiji that he had been given by the Maharja of Darbhanga a bust of Gandhiji done by Clare Sheridan and thathe proposed in the first instance to have it exhibited in Bombay and thereafter "to make it over to the Goverment of India with the suggestion that it should ultimately find a permanent home in the national capital".

From a printed copy. Lord Linlithgow Papers. Courtesy: National Archives of India

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172. TALK WITH VILLAGE REPRESENTATIVES1 HANSDIH,

March 21, 1947

Q. Is it [not] difficult to stop riots so long as the system of zamindari continues? The landlords are the persons who incite riots and will continue to do so.

A. I think it is foolish to connect riots with zamindari. The problem of zamindari is very old. How is it rational to kill Muslims to solve that problem? And many of the zamindars are themselves Hindus. **The Maharaja of Darbhanga is a very big zamindar. Should he and his wife be killed? I am very friendly with him. He respects me like a father because his late father was a good friend of mine.** A Hindu zamindar from North Bihar has promised to provide land to the Muslims. It is not proper to link the problem of Hindu-Muslim riots with the zamindari system. The latter is an altogether different problem and we have to consider ways and means of abolishing the system.

vol.94, gandhiserve.org

321. MESSAGE TO MAHARAJA OF DARBHANGA

April 17, 1947

Be a servant to your subjects. And spend no more than you need from the State exchequer, considering yourself a trustee of the entire property.

[From Gujarati]

Biharni Komi Agman, p. 217

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MAHARAJADHIRAJA DR. SIR KAMESHWARA SINGH*

By

Prof. Aniruddha Jha

A distinguished scion of an illustrious House, a zealous patron of learning and art, a ruler of unique foresight and under-standing, a great patriot and legislator, a symbol of liberalism and generosity, a bold reformer and, above all, a gentleman *par excellence*, Maharajadhiraja Dr. Sir Kameshwara Singh was one of the few charming personalities of the age whose influence was keenly felt in all the walks of Mithila life. Born on November 28, 1907 the young Maharaja was given the best education under the pesonal supervision of his great scholar-father Mahajadhiraja Sir Rameshwara Singh and was placed under the guidance of the well-known theosophist of the age, Miss Lilian Edgar as well as a number of other experienced teachers to educate him in different branches of learning. All this tremendously contributed to his mature thinking which he amply showed when he was called upon to hold the reins of his Estate at an early age of 22 only. To the amazement of all concerned the first action of the young Maharaja demonstrated his great affection for his younger brother Raja Bahadur Bisheshwara Singh who was offered the Rajnagar Circle which yielded an annual income of seven lacs of rupees. His affection for his brother throughout his life was so exemplary that it is hard to find a parallel in recent memory.

Another notable event of the young Maharaja's life was his bold decision to attend the Round Table Conference in London at the invitation of the Government of India. This virtually led to a revolt on the part of the Maithila Brahmanas, extraordinarily devoted to the *mint, anise and cummin of the law*, and resulted in an unprecedented crisis in the Maithila society. Of all the persons, how could Mithilesha, the leader of the most staunch followers of *Sanatana dharma (i.e.the Maithilas)* cross the sea, prohibited for Hindus by the *Dharmasastras*? It was unthinkable for the people who have carried conservatism to the excess of uncouthness. How could this erstwhile home of Hindu enlightenment tolerate this mental emancipation outside its pale which it had been so zealous to suppress thoughout the centuries? There was a blistering campaign against his decision and the young Maharaja was faced with a grave crisis of conscience. But, the great patriot and undaunted reformer in him could not be deterred by such purile agitations and commotions, for he fully realised that he would be failing in his duty by not participating in a Conference which was to discuss the various questions affecting his country's destiny. It was undoubtedly an act of extra-ordinary foresight and boldness on his part which had a far-reaching consequence on the advancement of the Community as was proved by subsequent events.

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As President of the Bihar Landholders Association the Maharaja made unique contributions to the agrarian reforms in Bihar. He guided its policy during its most crucial years which witnessed a considerable unrest among the tenants, sometimes leading to serious disturbances, and great irritation among the zamindars who were in no way prepared to take it lying down. Though the agrarian question had been agitating the minds of the public since the closing years of the last century, its pace was accelerated by the advent of the Provincial Autonomy leading to the formation of the Congress Ministry in some of the provinces. The situation was so explosive that any retaliatory act on the part of the irritated Zamindars would have sparked off a spate of violent bloodsheds, suicidal to the cause of national interest. It demanded a tactful and wise leader to deal with the problems to the best satisfaction of the tenants as well as the zamindars. The Maharaja came forward to intervene in time ; held a conference of the zamindars of the province on September 15, 1937 at Patna; impressed upon them the advisability of concerted and wise action and thus by tactful handling of the situation affected an honourable compromise between the zamindars of Bihar and the Congress party. This compromise was responsible for amending the Bihar Tenancy Act in such a way that it secured to the tenants the rights of restoration of *bakashta* lands as well as gave some relief to the zamindars in the income tax.

With the attainment of independence in 1947, the question of land reforms again raised its head and subsequently the Zamindari Abolition Bill came to be passed by the legislature. This touched off another storm of controversy in the country. The tenants or *Kisans* while jubilantly hailed the act and heaved a sigh of relief, the zamindars angrily protested against the measure. On this issue the Maharaja also differed with the Government and challenged the act in the Court. It created a tense situation, and instead of aggravating in the national leaders thought it wise to appeal to the noble sentiments of the Maharaja whose nationalistic feelings were above board. The Maharaja was quick to respond to their appeals and gave up his opposition. In return, he received certain promises from the leaders, which perhaps remained unredeemed.

Thus, on the whole, the Maharaja had always been on good terms with the British Government as well as with the national Government of India. When he attained the minimum age prescribed for a legislator he was nominated a member to the Council by the British Government. But, he always expressed his views in the Council frankly and boldly which remind us of the born nationalist in him who feared none and spared none. On September, 1932, while inaugurating the Bihar United Party at Ranchi, he delivered a classic speech declaring that the British Government should concede to us *Swarajya* or full liberty in the management of our own affairs "which we consider to be our birth-right". During the great upheaval in 1942, when the British Government wanted to requisition a body of horsemen from the Raj to suppress the great rising, he refused it

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outright. Moreover, he gave financial help to the Congress Organisation and to several of its leaders individually. Dr. Rajendra Prasad, the first President of India, was a great friend of the Maharaja.

A great patron of learning, the Maharaja, to the best tradition of his House, donated a sum of Rs.1,20,000/- for the creation of the Mithilesha Rameshwara Singh Maithili Chair in Patna University for research in Maithili language and literature immediately after his accession to the throne. His contributions to the promotion of Sanskrit learning were equally unique. As President of the Bihar Sanskrit Association he impressed upon the national Government the necessity of amending the Constitution so that the Association might function as a full-fledged University in the Province. He started the well-known "Mithilesha Mahesha Lectureship" in Sanskrit by giving munificent endowments to the Association to enable it to invite eminent Sanskrit scholars of the country to deliver their lectures. He was also the President of the Bihar Sanskrit Re-organisation Committee. Besides, numerous *tols* and *Pathasalas* had been established by him which were entirely financed by the Raj. The present Mithila Research Institute owes its existence to the inspiration and munificence of the Maharaja. And, finally the establishment of the Kameshwara Singh Sanskrit University at Darbhanga through his efforts and donations will go down as an eternal monument to his great love of Sanskrit language and literature for which, Mithila, the land of his great ancestors, has been noted since time immemorial.

Sanskrit apart, his love of technical and vocational education was no less great. The introduction of a full course of Industrial training in the curriculum of the Raj High School, Darbhanga with modern scientific apparatus, his donation of one lac of rupees for the development of science section of C.M.College, Darbhanga etc. are only a few instances of his love for technical aducation.

His life-long association with various educational and cultural institutions eloquently speaks of his great interest in general education. He was Pro-Chancellor of Kameshwara Singh Sanskrit University and Banaras Hindu University, a life-member of the Patna, Bihar and Allahabad Universities, a member of the Royal Asiatic Society and a Vice Patron of the Bihar Research Society. Besides, the founding of the *Indian Nation* and *Aryavarta* are instances of his invaluable service to the cause of Indian Jounalism.

His liberal donations to various works of charity and public utility reflect his genuine feelings and concern for the suffering mass. Whenever such opportunities presented, the Maharaja always rose equal to the occasion. His service to the people of Bihar during the great earthquake of 1934 will always be remembered by posterity with profound gratitude. He donated Rs.1,00,000 to the Viceroy's Earthquake Relief Fund; Rs.1,00,000 to King George Memorial (Anti-Tuberculosis) Fund; Rs. 1,00,000 to the Darbhanga District Board

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for sinking tubewells in the earthquake-affected areas of the district; a Rolls Royce Car (used by Maharani Kameshwari Priya before her death) to the Darhanga Orphanage and gold worth Rs.54,000 to the local *Goshala*, besides donations to the other innumerable institutions in the country.

A great builder and lover of art, the Maharaja completely changed the old face of the Raj area and converted it into a new, planned township by constructing beautiful buildings with most modern sanitory fittings which attracted visitors from all over the country. The devastating earthquake of 1934 had caused immense destruction of the Raj buildings, but within a few years the traces of that terrible calamity were completely wiped off, and instead, magnificent buildings sprang up over the whole area which still constitute splendid specimens of architectural brilliance. For this exemplary effort on his part, Lord Willingdon, the then Governor-General of India, paid glowing tributes to his genius at a banquet given in his honour when the latter had visited Darbhanga on November 30, 1935. Lord Willingdon's speech on this occasion was a marvellous piece of poetry in prose enumerating the many sided qualities of his head and heart.

The hands of cruel fate spare none, and the last great scion of this illustrious House of Darbhanga passed away on October1, 1962, though at an immature age of 55 only, yet in all glory and splendour. He was an embodiment of modesty and affability and an ideal brother whose love for his younger brother was exemplary even for ordinary people, and no misfortune overwhelmed him with grief more than the sad and premature demise of his brother in 1959 - a shock which he could not survive for long. Within 3 years of this tragic event, the builder and lover of learning and art himself passed away a sad and broken heart. His sad death stunned the whole country with grief and with his passing away a great epoch in the history of Mithila came to a sudden and abrupt close.

* The Journal of the Bhar Research Society,
Vol. XLVIII, January-December, 1962,
Part I-IV, Section I, pg. 1-5

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ROLE OF DR. SIR KAMESHWARA SINGH IN THE FIELD OF INDIAN JOURNALISM*

By

Dr. Sachin Sen

Dr. Kameshwara Singh, Maharajadhiraj of Darbhanga, was a born leader. He had invigorating ideas; he could provide inspiring leadership; he impressed those with whom he came in contact. He was sweet and soft; he was gentle and tolerant; he was firm and positive in his conviction.

Dr. Kameshwara Singh was an activist thinker and philosopher in the field of journalism. He founded "The Indian Nation" in 1930, an English daily of Patna. He started "The Aryavarta", a Hindi daily of Patna, in 1940. He also revived the Mithila Mihira, a Maithili Weekly, in 1960. He wanted that "The Indian Nation" should grow as a State newspaper, laying emphasis on the full growth of Bihar. He never wanted to utilise "The Indian Nation" for the ascendancy of his political leadership. He was not drawn towards power politics. He hated some of the techniques, necessary for the nursing of power politics. He loved the State of Bihar, and he thought that he could serve the State well if he could conduct a good daily which could function as the spokesman of modern Bihar.

Modern politics has two facets, viz. (1) seizure of power, and (2) service of people. Dr. Kameshwara Singh was drawn towards the exciting adventure of serving people. Those who are deeply engaged in mapping out the strategic moves for the seizure of power, elbowing out their critics from positions of vantage and authority, did not attract him. He had admiration for thinkers, fighters and crusaders; he had no respect for clever and cunning people who knew the art of succeeding in life at the cost of others. He wanted that "The Indian Nation" would do justice to the principles which guided him in the evolution of his political concepts.

Dr. Kameshwara Singh showed his adherence to certain positive and creative postulates. First, he believed in a stable order of society. There must be orderly growth and peaceful changes. He did not like to shut the door against experiments and innovations, but he was opposed to violent upheavals. Secondly, he was very much against uncleanliness in public life. He believed that the country could not grow to its full height if the public men had not observed a high code of conduct in public life. The general deterioration in the standards of public life hurt him most. Thirdly, the frowned on politicians who had small minds and preferred the short-cut to positions of authority through unrighteous ways. He expected that they should believe neatly and function on socially desirable lines. These were the major premises which influenced his concept of the role of a newspaper

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in renascent India. In fact, they formed the basic policies of the newspapers which he had started. It was his positive direction that "The Indian Nation" should not indulge in the politics of mud-slinging. It should give form and shape to the urges and aspirations of people. It had to function fearlessly. It was not to be shaken, in its service, by any threat. It would serve the cause which it would hold dear without fear or favour. Comments should be sharp and sober. Any unbalanced judgement was no judgement at all. That was what the Maharajadhiraja Bahadur of Darbhanga, Dr. Kameshwara Singh, had often stressed and stated. He was particular that his newspapers would accept no prompting and no directive from any quarter, friendly or hostile. They must work with courage and conviction on independent lines. Independence, in the view of Dr. Kameshwara Singh, had four aspects : viz, (1) newspapers must be fair and impartial in their views and news; (2) there should be no deviation from the path of service to the country and they should not be entangled in commitments to any group or political party; (3) newspapers must stand up and fight for causes and principles which they prize most; (4) newspapers must co-ordinate their independence to the lure of vulgar politics.

Dr. Kameshwara Singh made significant contribution in the field of Indian journalism. He guarded the policy of journalism through the medium of his newspapers and allowed nothing to come in between for corrupting of his newspapers. He stood determined to safeguard the independence of his newspapers. He never allowed his newspapers to be hawkers of sectarian trends in society and fissiparous tendencies in the country. He desired that his newspapers should work continuously and ceaselessly for harmonised synthetised growth of the country. He did not accept the contention that the political action could solve all problems. He could not, therefore, accept the dominance of power-loving politicians in the arena of social progress and national reconstruction. He interpreted social security, social justice and social progress not with a political angle. He wanted that his newspapers should stand for the harmonious and national synthesis between individual liberty and social good. The "Indian Nation" had scrupulously tried to carry aloft the banner of the faith and conviction of Dr. Kameshwara Singh.

Dr. Kameshwara Singh was a man of ideas. He was shy in his nature but very firm in his conviction. He was a "gentleman"; he hated the technique of aggression in selling his point of view. But he loved to place his point of view before the public. He was a landed magnate, but there was no feudalism in his political approach. He never wanted to dictate his scheme of reforms.

In politics, Dr.Kameshwara Singh advocated the liberal outlook and approach. He did not believe that the last word could be said in politics and that the last page could be written in the history of any country. The growth is ceaseless, and the process is continuous. Hence, he hated dogmas in politics and slogans in the political agitation. He did not find much merit in the politics of agitation. He was fascinated by the politics of reconstruction.

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But he defended the right of an individual to carve out his own path. During British rule he gave support to the Congress cause, because he wanted the country to grow and blossom in fulness. He looked around, with sympathy, to congress critics like Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, because he had special fascination for courageous and independent thinking. In subject India, he showed his adherence to the Liberal Party, as he had faith in the harmonised and synthetised progress of the country. The path of conflict did not appeal to him. He never failed to acknowledge the progressive forces released by the British Government, and as such he had his support for the enlightened aspects of British rule. He did not want India to move away from the moorings of its past culture. He had no respect for traditions which did no merit save their age, but he was one of the promoters of cultural renaissance and reformation in India. He was conservative in the sense that his mission was not to break but to reconstruct. But he was revolutionary in his outlook, as he worked steadfastly for industrial revolution, for scientific progress and for new values in the context of new social changes.

In my view, Dr.Kameshwara Singh was very much misunderstood. He preferred to live in his own shell, as he hated the glare of publicity. He had a sensitive approach, and anything crude and vulgar shocked him. He loved all that was noble, good and beautiful. Petty and prejudiced men did not appeal to him. He looked down upon small men with small minds. But as he chose not to hurt and prick others, he was never rude to any one. He was never serious in the company of small-minded people. He had contempt for men with blank faces and blank minds. He loved to be in the company of those who could act correctly, think deeply and feel nobly. True, he tolerated the second-rate people, but his weakness and fascination were for the first-rate people. He was helpful to many in whom he found merit. Many people had disappointed him but he did not lose faith in good men. He was anxious to convey his appreciation to the trained, the skilled, the efficient and the courageous people.

Dr.Kameshwara Singh could not be a party politician. He was a stranger to the art and science of compromise with all that was sordid, vulgar and vicious. He loved the country much better than any political party. He did not join the Congress Party, but he was all out for the sustenance of Congress rule which was necessary for the unfolding of India's destiny. He was fully conscious of the blemishes of the Congress Government. But in his analysis, the Congress Party was ideally suitable for the consolidation of the country. True, he was critical of the Congress programme of abolition of the landlord-tenant system and of the Congress strategy of thoughtless extension of the regulatory powers of Government, but he realised the necessity of stable Government in free India which could be provided by the Congress Party. The Gandhian outlook and approach attracted Dr.Kameshwara Singh; Sardar Patel's historic work of consolidation through peaceful integration of Princely States with the Union of India thrilled him, and Mr.Nehru's success in raising the international status of India made him proud. But he also looked kindly to honest and constructive critics of the Government.

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Dr.Kameshwara Singh developed a political philosophy of his own. The salient features of his political thought may be noted. First, he believed in a liberal democracy. Truth can be known when the two sides of the case are presented. Every wall has two sides. Dr.Kameshwara Singh never believed in a one-eyed approach. Secondly, he accepted the tenets of parliamentary democracy. Rival opinions and rival parties have to be tolerated. Dr.Kameshwara Singh gave his full support to the Congress Government, but he was anxious that the Opposition Parties should be strong and effective. He had no good words for irresponsible Opposition. He knew that no ruling party could nurse democratic forces unless it had to contend with the Opposition point of view. Different ideologies and differing systems must struggle for recognition, so that a new synthesis may be forged. Thirdly, Dr.Kameshwara Singh was very much against the concept of a Party State. The ruling party has to govern the country impartially and impersonally. It is not to be dictated by the organisational machinery. He believed with Professor Laski that half of the tragedies of the world were due to the fact that the ruling group thought that it was infallible. This doctrine of infallibility cannot co-exist with a liberal democracy. Regimented thinking is bad, and the lack of respect for the Opposition point of view is worse. Parliamentary democracy cannot yield rich dividends if the Opposition party is not effective and responsible. Fourthly, in the dynamics of social reconstruction, the Government have to be receptive and responsive to new ideas, to new urges and aspirations. Dr.Kameshwara Singh wanted experimental attitudes. He had no taste for a closed mind, a closed philosophy. He accepted the position that men, in the ultimate analysis, were influenced more by their tastes than by logic. But he never wanted to obstruct the flow of criticisms, based on rational reasoning and analysis.

Dr.Kameshwara Singh developed a code of his own in the conducting of newspapers. First, he frawned on unbalanced writings in the Press. He wanted Editors to be impartial and sober. When he asked for objectivity in news presentation, he did not mean that news-writers could be absolutely detached. In the laboratory of social affairs, no person can remain fully detached. He knew that every person developed his own point of view under the impact of environmental and family training. As he believed in the liberal philosophy of tolerance and synthetised growth, he wanted the Editor and the newsmen to follow the liberal technique in the presentation of news and views. Nothing should be suppressed but nothing illiberal should be encouraged. There may be news which seeks to promote the politics of strife and chaos. It should not be given undue importance. There may be happenings which are not socially desirable, and they are not to be dramatised. There may be developments which obstruct the nursing of democratic forces in society, and they should not be approvingly presented. In short, Dr.Kameshwara Singh stood for creative objectivity in the presentation of news. Thus, sensationalism, overdramatisation, exaggeration, the emphasis on illiberal and undemocratic ethos, the accent on the promotion of imbalance and instability in society, all these should be scrupulouslu avoided.

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News is sacred, so long as it helps the liberal and progressive urges in society. As Dr.Kameshwara Singh stood for changes by consent and not by force, he disfavoured the techniques and patters, hostile to and subversive of the democratic processes.

Dr.Kameshwara Singh did not want newspapers to be crude and vulgar. He accepted the basic proposition that newspapers of today had to be placed in the category of heavy industries. But he was keenly particular about the public service aspect of the newspaper. In the race for profits, he would refuse to subordinate the public service aspect of the modern newspaper. The Press can educate, entertain, widen the vision of its readers; it can broaden the base of democracy and can impart vigour and stability to the useful institutions in society. It can also break and pull down the existing structures in society and increase conflicts, tensions and antogonisms in society. Men and women have tigerish instincts; they have also the instincts of service and fellowship. In his view, the function of the newspaper is to curb the brute in man and to promote the socially desirable emotions in men. The newspaper has an industrial base; it has to command effective circulation. But its commercial instinct cannot change the social service role of a newspaper. Dr.Kameshwara Singh hated the technique of profit at any cost. He looked upon his newspaper industry as a vehicle of service to the country.The decline in newspaper profits had never disturbed him, but he was visibly shaken with the decline in the reputation of his newspapers. He felt that everything was lost with the sagging of the reputation of his newspapers. He would ask his newspapers not to lure readers but to serve them. The concept of service may differ. But he adhered to his own concept of service. He prized stability and mobility. The social order must be stable : it should respond to new urges and inspirations also. He had no faith in any social philosophy which would disrupt stability and mobility.

Dr.Kameshwara Singh, as the newspaper proprietor, had a purposeful concept of the freedom of the Press. He wanted his newspapers to function on independent lines. In his analysis, free Press must have three facets, viz. (1) it must have a critical tone, offering constructive criticisms to the Government; (2) it must not be the captive of any political party ; (3) it must function on the planes of sobriety, impartiality and fairness. Dr.Kameshwara Singh did not try to advertise his personal views through his newspapers. He stood for certain ideals. He wanted to be helpful to the Congress Government. And he wanted to keep the Congress Party on the right track. It was nottrue that he had instinctive allegiance to every syllable of the Congress programme. He had his differences. But he felt that Congress rule could shape the destiny of India. Hence, his newspapers gave support to the Congress experiment. But he knew that history would not pardon Congress lapses. He, therefore, wanted that his newspapers would keep a close watch on Congress irregularities. Dr.Kameshwara Singh had instinctive aversion to irregularities. Thus, he liked the critical and the constructive role of a newspaper. Criticisms must not be negative;

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they are to be purposive, and appreciative observations must be analytical and logical. He wanted that his newspapers should argue and state their case. They must not make sweeping and hasty generalisations. Dr.Kameshwara Singh had no love for newspaper writings which bore marks of hurried thinking and impatient approach. Newspapers should go slow, but they should be consistent and persistent in the presentation of their views. There should be no politics of pride and prejudice in the writings of newspapers. In short, newspaper writers are not to be loud hawkers or interested brokers; they are to write impersonally, argue rationally and state boldly. Dr.Kameshwara Singh had always good words for bold writings, brave convictions and constructive suggestions.

What he detested was this that there should be no personal praise or personal abuse. In criticisms, personal abuses should be discarded, and in appreciative writings, personal praise should be avoided. The code of conduct in the public life of the country has to be high. And newspapers are concerned with the public life of the country. Any propaganda on personal level is against the code of conduct for the Press. Every profession has to adhere to its own code of conduct. In a free society, free Press is essential. The Press can be free, when it refuses to accept the promptings of the Executive or of the political parties or of any vested interest. Every newspaper has its own policy, but the policy is to be pursued in an enlightened way. It must not bow down to outside pressures. As the proprietor of newspapers, he believed in the free functioning of the Editor and his department within the framework of its general policies. He hated regimented thinking; accordingly, he refused to impose his thinking on the Editor. He was only particular that the Editor should not deviate from the path of sobriety and impartiality in the thoughtful pursuit of the policies of the newspaper. Sobriety pays in the long run; impartiality strengthens the case which the Editor upholds; fairness consists in the sympathetic understanding of the other point of view. Dr.Kameshwara Singh allowed his Editor to develop his own grammer and syntax in the presentation of the case. He knew that the Editor was a literary artist, not to be dictated in the use of his brush and pen. He even permitted deviationism to a certain extent. What he wanted was this that the core of the policy of the newspaper should be conformed to. Thus, the Editor had the abundance of freedom under the stewardship of the enlightened proprietor like Dr.Kameshwara Singh. In sum Dr.Kameshwara Singh gave much scope for the development of the personality of the Editor. Accordingly, the complaint that newspaper proprietors choose to drill and discipline Editors in their writings was eloquently absent in the newspapers which he founded and conducted with superb craftsmanship.

Dr.Kameshwara Singh was an ideal newspaper proprietor. It was his basic stand that the newspaper should be utilised as the instrument of service to people. It should sustain and nourish the ideals of progress. The newspaper is not to serve the sordid ends of personal publicity or aggrandisement. It is not to wage the battle on behalf of any group

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or sect. It must serve the national interest. There are several roads to the service of people. Dr.Kameshwara Singh chose his own road. But once the road is carved out, he would not allow his newspapers to accept defeat. He gave "a soul" to his newspapers and a mission to stive for. "The Indian Nation" could develop its personality under the fostering guidance of Dr.Kameshwara Singh.

* The Journal of the Bhar Research Society,
Vol. XLVIII, January-December, 1962,
Part I-IV, Section I, pg. 6-13

"I shall not hide from you the fact that while in the past I had done all my literary work for nothing - teaching in the Vidyapith or editing a paper - I am now taking payments for my articles.

The wisest man I know was Pandit Motilal Nehru. He was indeed grand. He became "Tyag-murti" without sacrificing anything - meal, drink or smoke. He was the only Congressman who could build a palace while the movement was on, was able to make 2,000/- a day by fighting for the Maharaja of Darbhanga towards the end – and he was fortunate indeed in having left a greater son and an unimpaired fortune. Even the elder daughter is rising from glory to glory. I know none else in human history like that. He once told me he was very very circumspect - and he certainly was."

(Appendix to Letter from Sri Prakasa to Dr. Rajendra Prasad)

Dr. Rajendra Prasad :
Correspondence and Select Documents

By Valmiki Choudhary, pg.no. 152

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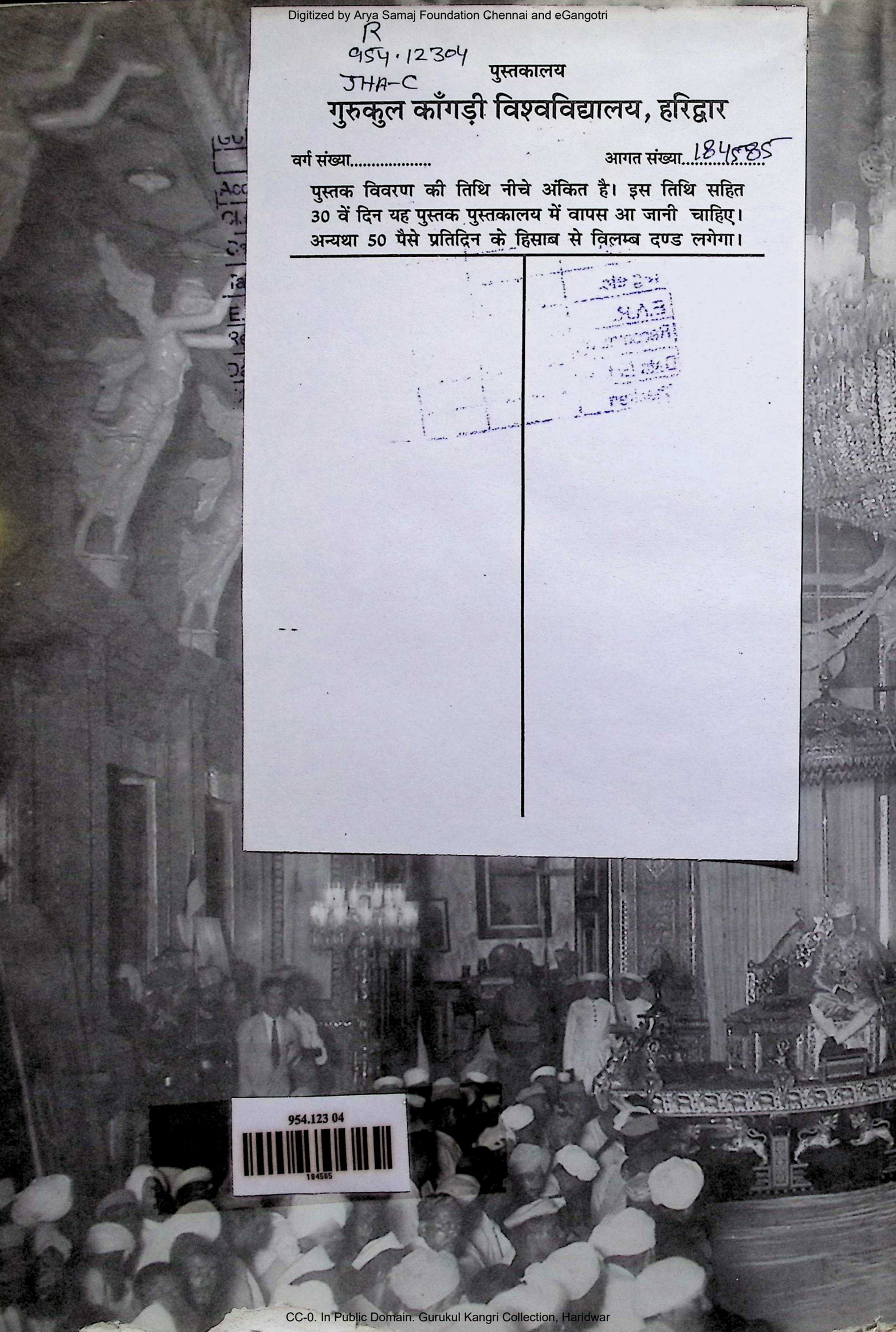
पुस्तकालय

गुरुकुल काँगड़ी विश्वविद्यालय, हरिद्वार

वर्ग संख्या.....

आगत संख्या 184585

पुस्तक विवरण की तिथि नीचे अंकित है। इस तिथि सहित 30 वें दिन यह पुस्तक पुस्तकालय में वापस आ जानी चाहिए। अन्यथा 50 पैसे प्रतिदिन के हिसाब से विलम्ब दण्ड लगेगा।



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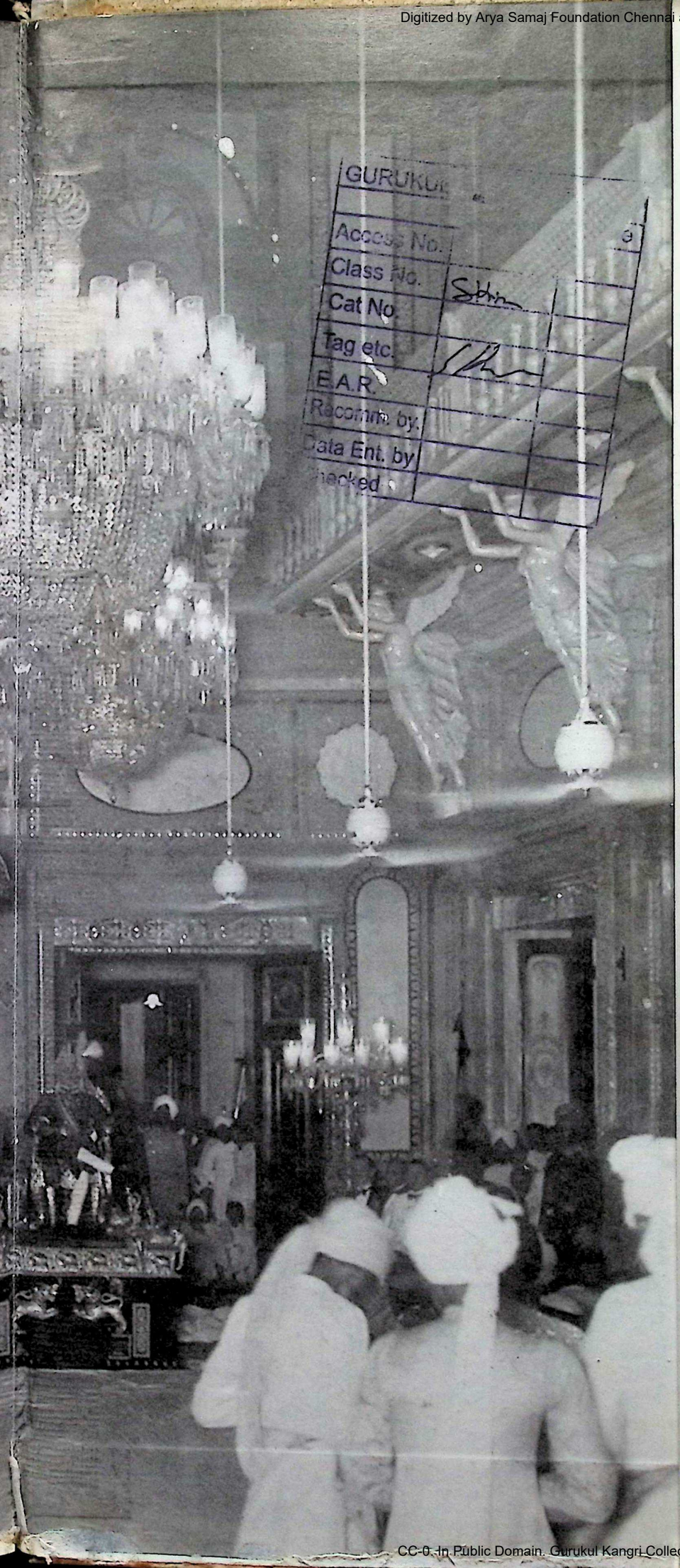
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The Volume produced as a Centenary Tribute to Maharajadhiraja Dr. Sir Kameshwar Singh contains the records and documents (collected so far) which provide at least a brief glimpse into the life of the last scion of the Khandavala dynasty. All the available documents have been distributed under the following eight sections : 1. Round Table Conference and 'Swadeshi'-'Vilayati' Movement (After Maharajadhiraja came from England, quite a lot of Shrotriya brahmans (sotis) excommunicated him for violating the norms of *dharmashastra*. Such people called themselves *Swadeshis* and those who sided with the *Maharajadhiraja* were called *Vilayati*. The Movement of *Swadeshis* was quite vigorous in the beginning); 2. Political Activities; 3. Movement for Mithila State; 4. Estate Management; 5. Commercial and Industrial Ventures; 6. Philanthropy; 7. Tributes and 8. Appendix. Besides, a number of photographs indicating the spheres of his interactions have also been given.

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Maharajadhiraja Kameshwar Singh Kalyani Foundation
Kalyani Niwas, Kameshwar Nagar, Darbhanga 846 004,
Bihar (India). Tel : 06272-246091
Website : www.kalyanifoundation.org

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